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The Truth Speaks

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Karnataka Cabinet clears revised SC internal reservation formula

Decision allocates quota among sub-groups following legal and policy review

BENGALURU

In a significant policy move, the Karnataka Cabinet on Friday approved a revised formula for internal reservation within the Scheduled Castes (SC) category, allocating 5.25% each to groups 'A' and 'B', and 4.50% to group 'C'.

The decision was taken at a special Cabinet meeting chaired by CM Siddaramaiah, following deliberations on legal constraints and recommendations by expert committees. The move comes amid ongoing debates over equitable distribution of reservation benefits among sub-castes.

Addressing the media, the CM said the classification divides SC communities into three groups—A (Right), B (Left), and C (Shiva)—within the overall 17% quota. However, due to the 50% cap on total reservation mandated by courts, the effective internal allocation has been adjusted within a 15% framework.

The earlier formula of 6:6:5 has now been withdrawn, and a fresh notification reflecting the revised 5.25:5.25:4.50 distribution will be issued. Siddaramaiah noted that the revision follows a Supreme Court ruling permitting internal reservation and subsequent recommendations by a commission headed by Justice Nagamohan Das.

He added that around 6% reservation will be treated as backlog and addressed after the High Court delivers its final ruling on the overall reservation ceiling.

The Cabinet also decided that nearly 20% of posts within Category 'C' will be earmarked for nomadic communities, ensuring targeted benefits to the most marginalised sections.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- 20% of Category C posts reserved for nomadic communities
- 6% treated as backlog (pending court decision)
- Applies to upcoming 56,432 government recruitments
- Previous ratio (6:6:5) withdrawn

"We have taken this decision unanimously to ensure fair and equitable distribution of reservation among all SC sub-groups. Our government's commitment is that no community should face injustice, and opportunities must reach the most deserving."

—Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

SC INTERNAL RESERVATION BREAKDOWN

- Total Scheduled Castes quota: 17%
- Effective allocation considered: 15% (to stay within 50% cap)

REVISED DISTRIBUTION:

CATEGORY A:	CATEGORY B:	CATEGORY C:
5.25%	5.25%	4.50%

'TMC goons won't find hiding place, end of jungle raj': PM

KOLKATA

PM Modi said high turnout showed desire for change, strong faith in democracy, despite alleged intimidation attempts by ruling party.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday intensified his attack on the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC), warning that party "goons" would have no place to hide after the May 4 election results, as he cited record voter turnout as evidence of an impending political shift.

Addressing a rally at Dum Dum ahead of the next phase of polling, Modi said the unprecedented participation in the first phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections had already signalled the end of what he termed "jungle raj" in the state.

He claimed that the high turnout reflected people's desire for change and reaffirmed public faith in democracy. The Prime Minister also alleged that the ruling party had resorted to intimidation tactics but said such efforts would not deter voters.

Modi further stated that a BJP government would prioritise justice, law and order, and welfare measures for the middle class.

He highlighted economic steps taken by the Centre, including raising the income tax exemption limit, to ease the burden on citizens.

Congratulating voters in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, the Prime Minister said the massive turnout marked a decisive moment in the electoral process, indicating what he described as a strong wave in favour of change.

"After the results on May 4, the TMC's goons will find no place to hide. The files on every injustice will be opened—this is Modi's guarantee."

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Raghav Chadha, six AAP MPs join BJP in major political shift

NEW DELHI

In a major political development, Raghav Chadha and six other Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MPs on Friday quit the party and joined the BJP, citing a shift away from core values and principles.

Along with Chadha, MPs Sandeep Pathak, Ashok Mittal, Harbhajan Singh, Rajinder Gupta, Vikram Sahney and Swati Maliwal formally announced their decision, claiming support of two-thirds of AAP's Rajya Sabha strength, enabling a merger under anti-defection provisions.

Chadha said the party he helped build had strayed from its founding ideals and no longer worked in the national interest.

Samrat Choudhary-led NDA proves majority with voice vote in House

NDA government wins trust vote in Bihar Assembly

PATNA

The NDA government led by Samrat Choudhary secured a decisive victory in the Bihar Assembly on Friday, winning the trust vote through a voice vote. The ruling alliance, backed by 202 legislators in the 243-member House, demonstrated a commanding majority, reaffirming its political strength.

Assembly Speaker Prem Kumar congratulated the government following the passage of the confidence motion. The development comes amid heightened political exchanges between the treasury benches and the Opposition.

During the debate, Choudhary strongly countered remarks by Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, rejecting claims about his political origins.

He asserted that leadership is earned through struggle and experience, not inherited privilege. Reflecting on his early career, he recalled his association with Lalu Prasad Yadav and said adversity shaped his journey into politics.

Choudhary also acknowledged the role of Nitish Kumar in his elevation, stating that his leadership continues to guide the state's development vision.

He emphasised the NDA's commitment to governance, highlighting priorities such as farmers' welfare, women's empowerment, and curbing corruption, crime, and extremism.

Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha reiterated that the government would function under Nitish Kumar's guidance, despite his shift to the Rajya Sabha, and ensure continuity in policy implementation.

The Opposition, however, questioned the necessity of the special session, arguing that earlier clarity on leadership could have avoided the exercise.

Bihar Assembly Numbers	Key Highlights
Total Seats: 243	Trust vote passed by voice vote
NDA Strength: 202	NDA asserts unity and stability
Majority Mark: 122	CM stresses governance priorities
Opposition Strength: 41	Opposition raises procedural concerns

DK Shivakumar urges Centre to relax height norms near defence airfields

NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has urged Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to ease building height restrictions around defence airfields in Bengaluru, citing their impact on the city's rapid urban development.

During a meeting in New Delhi, Shivakumar submitted a memorandum highlighting that stringent norms imposed by defence authorities while granting No Objection Certificates (NOCs) are hindering infrastructure growth within a 20-km radius of airfields such as HAL Airport and Yelahanka Air Base.

He noted that under existing rules, building heights are capped at 150 metres within a 15-km radius.

However, defence authorities have extended these restrictions up to 20 km, limiting development in key urban zones where demand for real estate and infrastructure is high.

Shivakumar emphasised that Bengaluru, one of the fastest-growing cities globally, requires a balanced approach that ensures both aviation safety and urban expansion. He urged the Centre to review the guidelines and restrict the 150-metre cap strictly within 15 km.

Yediyurappa felicitation in Chitradurga on May 9, Amit Shah to attend

BENGALURU

A grand felicitation programme for former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa will be held in Chitradurga on May 9, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah set to inaugurate the event. Organisers expect over 10 lakh people to participate in the "Abhimanotsava" celebrating Yediyurappa's 50-year political journey.

Announcing the plans, MP Govinda Karjol said a bhoomi puja for the venue will be conducted on April 26 at 10 am. Senior leaders, including BJP state president BY Vijayendra, MPs, MLAs and opposition leaders such as R Ashoka and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, are expected to attend.

Karjol said the event is being organised to honour Yediyurappa's contributions to farmers, social justice and the growth of the BJP in Karnataka. A "Purapravesh" programme is also scheduled on May 8 evening ahead of the main celebrations. Leaders said invitations have been extended to chief ministers, former chief ministers, ministers, and dignitaries from across the country, along with writers, artists and representatives from various fields. Large participation from farmers and the general public is also expected.Speaking on the occasion, Vijayendra said the celebrations aim to recognise Yediyurappa's role in building the party and serving the people. He described the event as a historic gathering reflecting public admiration for the veteran leader.

Organisers have formed multiple committees to manage logistics for the large turnout, with Chitradurga chosen for its central location in the state.

Mega Abhimanotsava to mark 50 years of BSY's political journey, lakhs expected

CEC REMOVAL BID

Opposition submits fresh notice to remove CEC

NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Friday submitted a fresh notice seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, marking the second such attempt in Parliament within a short span.

The notice has been signed by 73 Rajya Sabha MPs belonging to 11 Opposition parties, including senior leaders like Congress MP Jairam Ramesh and TMC MP Sagarika Ghosh. The move reportedly includes nine fresh charges against the CEC, expanding on earlier allegations raised in a previous notice.

Earlier, a similar notice had been submitted by 193 MPs from both Houses, raising seven charges.

However, that attempt did not move forward procedurally.

The current notice is yet to include a formal submission in the Lok Sabha, indicating that the Opposition has not finalised a joint filing strategy across both Houses.

Under constitutional provisions, the removal of the Chief Election Commissioner follows the same process as that of a Supreme Court judge. Article 324(5) ensures that the CEC cannot be removed except on grounds and procedures similar to impeachment.

Once admissible in both Houses, an inquiry committee is constituted jointly by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

KEY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum 50 MPs required in Rajya Sabha notice
- Minimum 100 MPs required in Lok Sabha notice
- Motion must be admitted in both Houses
- Joint inquiry committee formed after admission
- CEC removal follows Supreme Court judge-like process

QUICK READ

Body of unidentified man found in bag, murder suspected

BENGALURU

Panic gripped residents after the body of an unidentified man was found stuffed inside a bag in BDA Layout, Lakshmipur under Gangammanagudi police station limits on Friday. Locals on a morning walk noticed stray dogs dragging the bag and alerted police. Officers rushed to the spot and began an investigation, suspecting the victim was murdered and dumped. Forensic Science Laboratory and SOCO teams inspected the scene. The body was recovered from a deserted area, and efforts are underway to establish identity. Police said the will be sent for postmortem after preliminary examination.

Man dies by suicide after alleged harassment by lenders

BENGALURU

A 45-year-old man allegedly died by suicide after jumping from the 13th floor of an apartment in the Sampigehalli police station limits. The deceased, identified as Vivekananda, had reportedly gone to view a flat in the building before taking the extreme step. Police said he had borrowed large sums of money and was under pressure from lenders to repay the loans. Family members have also alleged harassment during questioning by CCB police in connection with a complaint against him. Sampigehalli police have registered a case and are investigating further.

35 peacocks die amid searing heat

BENGALURU

At least 35 peacocks have died in Tumakuru district amid intense heat wave conditions, raising concerns among forest and veterinary authorities. The deaths were reported from Bommanahalli and Machenahalli areas, spread across 500 metres to 1 km, suggesting a wider environmental impact. Veterinary teams have conducted postmortems and sent samples for laboratory analysis, with results expected within 48 hours. Preliminary findings indicate lung damage, while bodies remained largely intact. Officials suspect heat stress and dehydration as primary causes but have not ruled out bird flu. Water samples have also been collected, and affected sites sealed as a precaution.

11 elevated corridors planned to ease Bengaluru's traffic congestion

State plans major elevated corridors to tackle Bengaluru's growing traffic crisis

BENGALURU

In a major push to address Bengaluru's worsening traffic congestion, the Karnataka government has drawn up an ambitious plan to construct 11 elevated corridors across key bottlenecks in the city. The project aims to provide a long-term and sustainable solution to traffic woes in India's tech capital.The proposed corridors, spanning a total length of 75.60 km, are estimated to cost ₹13,262 crore. Of this, ₹7,150 crore will be funded directly by the government, while the remaining amount will be executed under the hybrid annuity model. Additionally, ₹2,072 crore has been earmarked for land acquisition. The project will be implemented by Bangalore Smart Infrastructure Limited and will cover five municipal corporation limits within the city. The corridors are strategically planned to decongest some of the busiest and most traffic-prone stretches.

Key proposals include a slit flyover at MEI Junction on Tumkur Road, a grade separator linking Pipeline Road to Outer Ring Road via Mahalaxmi Layout, and a major elevated corridor connecting Minerva Circle, Hudson Circle, KR Circle and Town Hall.

Other crucial routes include Kanakapura Road near Raghuvanahalli Cross and an elevated stretch from Doddaballapura Road Police Station Junction to Kogilu Circle. Additional corridors are planned at Konanakunte Cross and from Yeshwantpur-Mattikere to Old Madras Road via IISc and Mekhri Circle. A major east-west link will connect Old Madras Road to Electronic City via Indiranagar, Old Airport Road, Hosur Road and Silk Board Junction—one of the city's most congested zones.

Further, elevated corridors from Sirsi Circle to Nayandahalli and Talaghattapura to Kanakapura Main Road are expected to ease traffic flow in south and west Bengaluru.

Officials believe the project will significantly reduce travel time, improve connectivity and boost productivity. However, challenges such as land acquisition, environmental concerns and execution timelines remain critical factors in determining its success.

Riot over pigeon theft leaves youth dead, five arrested

BENGALURU

A dispute over alleged pigeon theft escalated into a fatal attack in Rajagopalanagara, leaving a 24-year-old man dead and five accused in police custody.The victim, Mallikarjan Rao, was murdered near Vigyan Public School on the night of April 21. According to police, he had accompanied his friend Prashanth, a pigeon breeder, to confront a group accused of stealing pigeons a few days earlier.During the confrontation near Laggere, a heated argument turned violent, and the accused allegedly stabbed Mallikarjan in the stomach with a dagger, resulting in his death.Police have arrested five suspects—Darshan (28), Surendra (27), Mahendra (29), Vijay (26) and another Darshan (26), all residents of Nandini Layout.

Energy Minister George launches BESCOM 'HT Mitra' portal for consumers

Single digital platform to streamline complaints, services for BESCOM high-tension users

BENGALURU

Karnataka Energy Minister KJ George on Friday launched 'HT Mitra', a dedicated service request and grievance redressal portal for high-tension (HT) electricity consumers under BESCOM.

The portal, developed by BESCOM engineers, aims to provide a transparent, efficient and user-friendly system for over 18,000 HT customers, including industries, IT/BT firms and commercial establishments. It enables users to register complaints, request services and track their status in real time—features that were previously unavailable through traditional channels like the 1912 helpline or in-person visits.

Speaking at the launch, George said the initiative reflects the government's commitment to leveraging technology for better service delivery. He emphasised that ensuring quality power supply and quick resolution of consumer grievances remains a top priority.

Additional Chief Secretary (Energy) Gaurav Gupta noted that the platform would enhance ease of doing business by offering timely and transparent solutions to high-load consumers. BESCOM Managing Director N Sivashankar added that the system would improve accountability, as officials can monitor actions taken on each complaint.

The portal also integrates automated SMS alerts to keep users informed at every stage, ensuring continuous communication between customers and officials.

DELAYS DOG SPICEJET, BENGALURU-KOLKATA FLIGHT GROUNDED FOR HOURS

BENGALURU

Fresh disruption unfolded at Kempegowda International Airport after SpiceJet flight SG768 from Bengaluru to Kolkata was delayed for several hours due to a technical snag, adding to growing passenger complaints over repeated delays and poor communication.

Passengers said the flight, originally scheduled to depart around 2 pm, remained grounded even past 10 pm, with no clear updates from the airline. Travellers alleged they were left waiting at the boarding gate with minimal staff presence and inadequate assistance.Anupam Mitra, one of the passengers, said the delay began with a brief announcement but gradually stretched into hours without resolution. He also claimed that despite the prolonged wait and ticket costs exceeding ₹10,000, no refund or proper support was provided. Airport officials later attributed the delay to aircraft maintenance issues. However, passengers expressed frustration over the lack of transparency and communication from airline staff throughout the ordeal.The incident adds to a series of recent complaints against the airline. On April 22, a passenger alleged a 26-hour delay on flight SG269 and claimed he was made to pay ₹5,250 at the airport under what he described as an unclear policy. On the same day, another flight was delayed by nearly four hours, causing disruption to onward travel plans and triggering protests by passengers at the airport.Frequent delays have raised concerns among travellers over operational reliability and customer service standards, with many demanding stricter accountability and better communication protocols from the airline.

Expelled leader 'Queen Khan' accused of assaulting party member

BENGALURU

A political dispute in Bengaluru has turned violent, with an expelled party leader allegedly storming a colleague's residence and carrying out an attack following internal differences.

According to police, Shahbaz, who had earlier contested in the Davanagere South by-election, was allegedly assaulted at his house by Queen Khan and a group of associates.Sources said the incident stems from internal party tensions. Queen Khan, previously associated with the Youth Empowerment Party, was reportedly expelled over alleged anti-party activities. The fallout is believed to have triggered the confrontation.

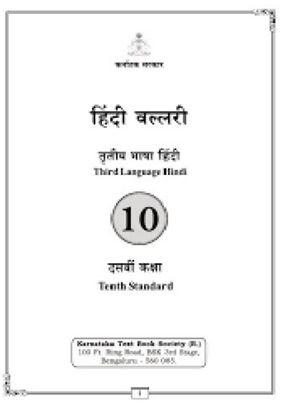
Amid Karnataka's rethink on Hindi, SSLC students score better than ever

BENGALURU

Amid ongoing policy discussions in Karnataka over the role of Hindi in school education and a proposed shift to a grading system instead of marks for the subject in SSLC (Class 10) exams, the 2026 results have shown a sharp and unexpected rise in performance.According to data released by School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa, the pass percentage in Hindi has jumped significantly to 98.6% in 2026, compared to 87.5% in 2025. The improvement of over 11 percentage points has drawn attention from both policymakers and education experts.

Out of more than 7 lakh students who appeared for Hindi, around 6.9 lakh cleared the subject this year. In contrast, nearly 75,000 students had failed in 2025, but this number has now dropped sharply to about 9,000.

Officials from the Department of School Education said the improvement is visible across both urban and rural regions, with notable gains even in government schools in remote areas. They attributed the rise to improved teaching methods, structured revision programmes, and exam-focused learning support introduced over the past year.However, the results have also reignited debate over Karnataka's language policy. The state government has been considering a two-language formula and a grading system for Hindi, aimed at reducing academic pressure and addressing concerns about linguistic imbalance.While some educationists see the results as evidence of better learning outcomes, pro-Kannada groups argue that the numbers do not resolve the broader policy concerns. They maintain that the debate over "linguistic imposition" continues despite improved pass rates.



Nitin Gadkari promised to repair Hosur Road by April-end: Kiran Mazumdar Shaw

BENGALURU

BIOCON Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has said that Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari assured her that the heavily congested Hosur Road stretch in Hebbagodi will be restored to better condition by the end of April.

Mazumdar-Shaw said she raised concerns about the poor condition of National Highway 44 earlier this month through a post on X, describing the stretch as badly designed and poorly maintained. She also highlighted the lack of response to repeated complaints about daily traffic snarls affecting commuters and industry employees in the region.Following her post, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) responded stating that the road, completed in 2010, now carries far higher traffic volumes due to rapid urban expansion around Bengaluru's industrial corridors.Shaw later met Gadkari, who she said acknowledged the poor condition of the highway and assured swift action. "He was very helpful. He said he was upset that the national highway was in such bad shape and promised to improve it," she said on the sidelines of the STAMP (Nudging Commuter Behaviour) event.

Tents and solo travellers, a safety check in focus

BENGALURU

The reported sexual assault on a US citizen has brought renewed attention to safety risks faced by solo travellers staying in tents, which often lack internal locking mechanisms. The incident has raised concerns among adventure enthusiasts and trekkers who frequently opt for tented accommodation in homestays, resorts, and trekking camps across Karnataka.

Experts say tents, while popular for outdoor experiences, come with inherent security vulnerabilities. Depending on their design, altitude use, and material, tents may not offer adequate protection against intrusion.

"There are different kinds of tents, but the most important aspect is proper ventilation and ensuring safety awareness. At the same time, one must also be alert to potential dangers outside," said S Srivatsa, Secretary of the Karnataka Mountaineering Association (KMA).He stressed that personal security must be treated as a priority. "A tent is like a personal home. No one should enter without consent," he added, urging travellers to be cautious, especially in homestays or private estates where canvas tents are provided.

ROAD WORK STALLED

Revised PWD bitumen rates fall short of market surge

BENGALURU

Road development across Bengaluru has taken a major hit as revised bitumen rates by the Public Works Department (PWD) fail to match soaring market prices, forcing contractors to halt work on a large scale.PWD revised bitumen rates earlier this month after prices breached the 10% variation threshold. However, contractors say the updated rates remain significantly lower than actual market rates, making projects financially unviable. As a result, officials from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) estimate that over 90% of asphalting works in the city have come to a standstill.Contractors point to a sharp spike in bitumen prices—from around ₹45,000 per tonne earlier to nearly ₹80,000 per tonne now—driven by supply disruptions from major refining hubs such as Mangaluru and Maharashtra. They argue that even the revised PWD rates do not reflect this steep increase.GM Nandakumar, President of the Greater Bengaluru City Corporation Contractors' Association, questioned the feasibility of continuing work under current rates, stating that contractors are incurring heavy losses. He added that work would resume only after the government approves a "star rate" model, which allows payments based on prevailing market prices.The contractors' association has submitted a representation to the GBA Commissioner, seeking immediate release of differential payments under the star rate mechanism. It has also invoked the force majeure clause under Karnataka's public procurement framework, citing global disruptions, including the ongoing Iran-America conflict, as a major factor behind the unprecedented rise in input costs.

High Court stays case over misleading Griha Jyoti video

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has stayed proceedings against a Telangana-based man accused of sharing a misleading video about the state's Griha Jyoti scheme.A single-judge bench led by Justice M Nagaprasanna passed the interim order while hearing a petition filed by Ravikant Samrat from Karimnagar, seeking to quash a case registered at East CEN police station in Bengaluru.The petitioner's counsel argued that the video featuring Energy Minister KJ George was reposted unintentionally in November 2023 and deleted within hours after inaccuracies were identified.BESCOM officials contended that the video falsely suggested a power shortage under the Griha Jyoti scheme, a claim backed by forensic analysis. The complaint was originally filed by BESCOM General Manager CN Manjunath.Taking note that the content was promptly removed, the court stayed further proceedings until the next hearing.

QUICK READ

Man assaulted for questioning misuse of land allotted to his mother

BENGALURU

A man was allegedly assaulted after he questioned the unauthorised use of a land parcel allotted to his mother in Kodigehalli under KR Puram police station limits. According to police, the land, given to his mother as part of a family arrangement, was being used by others. When Venkatesh confronted them and asked for an explanation, a couple identified as Srinivas and Saraswathi allegedly attacked him. They reportedly kicked him and beat him with a stick, causing injuries. Police have registered a case and are investigating the incident.

Kona Vamshi Krishna appointed South Division DCP

BENGALURU

The state government on Friday appointed Kona Vamshi Krishna as the new Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) for Bengaluru's South Division. Krishna, a 2014-batch IPS officer, was previously serving as Superintendent of Police in the Lokayukta. He replaces Lokesh Bharamappa Jagalasar, who has been transferred. Officials said a new posting for Jagalasar is yet to be announced. The reshuffle is part of routine administrative changes aimed at strengthening policing and improving law and order management in the city's South Division.

Car crashes into divider on Bengaluru-Hosur highway, no injuries

BENGALURU

A car crashed into a road divider on the Bengaluru-Hosur highway near Electronic City on Friday morning, causing traffic disruption but no injuries. The vehicle, a Maruti Eeco, is suspected to have lost control before ramming into the divider. The impact left the front portion of the car severely damaged and wedged into the iron bars. Motorists and passersby worked together to remove the vehicle from the divider after considerable effort. Police said no casualties were reported in the incident and further details are being examined.

Contractor moves High Court alleging bribe demand in waste tender process

Petition seeks probe, cancellation of fresh tender over alleged corruption claims

BENGALURU

A contractor has approached the High Court seeking action against senior officials of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), alleging that bribes were demanded to clear a solid waste disposal tender, and urging cancellation of a newly floated tender.

The petition was filed by SN Balasubramanian, General Secretary of the Bangalore Metropolitan Cleanliness and Lorry Owners and Contractors Association. A bench headed by Justice Sachin Shankar Magadam heard the matter and recorded submissions from both sides.

During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel reiterated allegations that senior officials, including Tushar Girinath and Karigowda, had demanded a 15 percent bribe to complete formalities related to the tender for waste disposal in Shantinagar. The petitioner claimed that despite emerging as the lowest bidder (L1) for Package 1, the process was stalled after refusal to comply with the alleged demand.

According to the petition, the officials allegedly warned that the tender would not be finalised and that existing contracts could be cancelled if the payment was not made. It further claimed that after the refusal, the tender was scrapped and a fresh one was issued, prompting the plea for judicial intervention.

The petitioner has also sought a direction for legal action against the officials concerned and cancellation of the new tender process. Counsel submitted that an affidavit detailing the bribery allegations would be filed before the court and expressed readiness for any form of investigation.Opposing the claims, Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty argued that the allegations were baseless and aimed at maligning senior officials. He pointed out that the petitioner was reportedly not even present in Bengaluru on the day the alleged demand was made, citing travel records as evidence.The court took note of the submissions and is expected to consider further proceedings after the filing of the affidavit.

Midnight brawl as drunken friends clash

BENGALURU

A late-night altercation in Koramangala escalated into a violent street brawl after a group of friends allegedly fought under the influence of alcohol, triggering panic among residents and passers-by.The incident occurred around 1.35 am, when what began as a minor argument reportedly spiralled into a physical confrontation in the middle of the road. The group is said to have included youths from different backgrounds, and tensions quickly escalated during the exchange. Eyewitnesses said a woman allegedly slapped.

₹4 crore gold heist at bank shocks Bengaluru, staffer accused

BENGALURU

In a case that has stunned customers and raised serious concerns over banking safeguards, an assistant manager at an Indian Bank branch in Girinagar has been accused of stealing gold ornaments worth around ₹4 crore that had been pledged by customers.The accused, identified as Kiran, allegedly misused his position to siphon off gold in phases, particularly during periods when senior officials were not present at the branch. According to complaints, over 2 kilograms of pledged ornaments went missing over time without immediate detection.

The fraud came to light when customers visited the branch to reclaim their gold and discrepancies were noticed. A detailed inspection of lockers reportedly exposed the scale of the theft. Preliminary findings suggest that a portion of the stolen gold may have been diverted towards online betting and personal expenses.The bank management lodged a complaint in early February, following which Girinagar police arrested the accused. However, the case has sparked outrage among customers after reports that the accused secured bail within days, raising questions about the pace and seriousness of the investigation.

So far, authorities have recovered only about 1 kilogram of gold, leaving a substantial portion still untraced. Customers have expressed anguish that despite the loss, they continue to be charged interest on the pledged gold, compounding their financial distress.Many affected individuals have begun demanding greater accountability from both the bank and investigating agencies. They have called for a thorough probe and swift recovery of the missing assets.

Growing anger among customers

Customers have alleged that the investigation has been slow and incomplete, with key leads yet to be pursued. Several have staged protests outside the branch, urging police to intensify efforts, trace the remaining gold, and ensure strict action against those responsible.

Agriculture key to state economy, says minister Chaluvarayaswamy

BENGALURU

Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy on Friday underscored the crucial role of the agriculture sector in Karnataka's economy, stating that it contributes 17 percent to the state's income and provides employment to nearly 58 percent of the population.

Speaking at the Agri-Tech Summit 2026 held at Palace Grounds, the minister said the government is committed to the holistic development of agriculture and agro-technology, and has implemented several schemes aimed at improving farmers' livelihoods.

He noted that India's food production is expected to reach 355 million tonnes in 2025-26, while Karnataka has achieved production levels of 155–160 million tonnes. He attributed the progress in the sector to effective government policies, research by agricultural scientists, and the efforts of farmers.Highlighting key initiatives, Chaluvarayaswamy said greater emphasis has been placed on horticulture, value addition, and strengthening processing, packaging, branding, and market linkages for agricultural produce.

In the 2026-27 budget, the government has announced an allocation of ₹100 crore over three years under the "Mukhyamantri Krishi Vistara Yojana", aimed at boosting rural incomes.The minister also pointed out that Karnataka's diverse climatic conditions have helped secure GI tags for 49 agricultural products, enhancing export potential in global markets. He added that the state is strengthening international market access for its produce.Karnataka has also emerged as a leader in food processing, with around 6,500 units established between 2020 and 2025, generating employment for nearly 90,000 people.Emphasising sustainability, the minister said the government is promoting eco-friendly and modern farming practices to ensure long-term growth and improved living standards for farmers.

KJ George inaugurates Dr Rajkumar Park in Kammanahalli

BENGALURU

Energy Minister K. J. George inaugurated the Natasaarvabhowma Dr Rajkumar Park in Kammanahalli, dedicating a newly built open-air theatre to the public. He said the facility would host community programmes and assured further beautification of parks across the constituency.The Minister inspected cleanliness, reviewed amenities, and distributed wheelchairs and sports equipment. At Hennur Biodiversity Park, he directed officials to adopt drip irrigation and improve infrastructure.He also launched road, drainage, lighting and water projects in multiple areas, stressing quality and timely completion, while assuring water supply solutions for affected localities.

Two women held for wildlife smuggling at Bengaluru airport

BENGALURU

In a major crackdown on wildlife trafficking, customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport have arrested two women for allegedly smuggling rare and exotic animals into the city from Thailand.

The accused have been identified as Lavanya Naganna from Gubbi and Bhagya Lakshmiah from Dasarahalli. They arrived in Bengaluru on a Thai Airways flight when officials noticed a strong foul smell emanating from one of their suitcases during routine checks.

Suspicious of the baggage, customs authorities conducted a thorough inspection and were shocked to discover several species of live wildlife concealed inside. The seized animals reportedly included turtles, frogs, snakes, a python, and iguanas, pointing to a coordinated attempt to traffic multiple exotic species into India.

Officials immediately detained the women and registered a case at the airport police station under relevant wildlife and smuggling laws. The animals have been secured and are expected to be handed over to forest department authorities for further care and assessment.Preliminary investigations suggest the operation may be part of a larger smuggling network.

Drunken misconduct in Kengeri sparks chaos, damages property

BENGALURU

A case of public misconduct by an intoxicated man in Kengeri Satellite Town has raised fresh concerns over safety and law enforcement in Bengaluru. The incident, involving obscene behaviour and vandalism, unfolded while a couple was practising bike riding in the area.

According to the complaint, the accused, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, began urinating in public and behaved inappropriately. He reportedly stared at the woman, making the couple uncomfortable. When the husband objected, the situation escalated into a confrontation.

The man is said to have attempted to assault the husband and continued creating a ruckus. He allegedly damaged the couple's vehicle by breaking its indicator and later went on to vandalise nearby property by smashing the window glass of a house.

The couple also accused the man of using abusive language during the incident, further aggravating the situation. They alerted the police, who rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

In addition, the couple recorded a video of the incident and shared it on social media, raising questions about women's safety in public spaces. The video has since drawn attention and triggered discussions online about civic behaviour and security.

CET row erupts over alleged removal of students' sacred threads

BENGALURU

A controversy has erupted during the ongoing CET examinations in Karnataka, with allegations that students were forced to remove their sacred thread (janivara) at an exam centre in Madiwala, triggering outrage among parents and religious groups. According to complaints, the incident occurred at Krupanidhi College, where more than five students, including Anand Sudhir Rao, were allegedly stopped during frisking and asked to remove their sacred threads before being allowed to enter the examination hall.Students who objected were reportedly warned that they would not be permitted to write the exam unless they complied. Parents, fearing their children would miss the exam, are said to have reluctantly agreed. Following the allegations, officials from the Education Department and CET Cell visited the centre to conduct an inquiry. There are also claims that parents were persuaded not to file formal complaints, though this has not been officially confirmed.The incident has sparked strong reactions, with parents and religious leaders condemning the alleged violation of religious rights.

REPRIEVE FOR TIMARODI

HC reserves order Timarodi deportation plea

BENGALURU

The High Court has reserved its verdict on a petition filed by activist Mahesh Shetty Timarodi challenging his deportation from Dakshina Kannada district to Manvi taluk in Raichur, while granting interim relief by staying further action until April 29.A bench headed by Justice Sachin Shankar Magadam heard arguments from both sides and concluded proceedings, indicating that the order would be pronounced on the next hearing date.The petition challenges the action

of the Puttur Sub-Divisional Officer, who had issued the deportation order for the third time. The petitioner's counsel argued that Timarodi had been actively involved in protests seeking justice in a Belthangady student rape and murder case and had supported public movements, which allegedly led to multiple cases being filed against him on what were termed as frivolous grounds.It was further submitted that the High Court had earlier quashed a similar deportation order and directed authorities to pass a fresh order. However, the latest order, the petitioner argued, violates provisions of the Karnataka Police Act and lacks substantive reasoning linking the charges against him to any threat to public order.

The counsel pointed out that out of 26 cases registered against Timarodi, he has been acquitted in 16, while others. Agriculture key to state economy, says minister Chaluvarayaswamy

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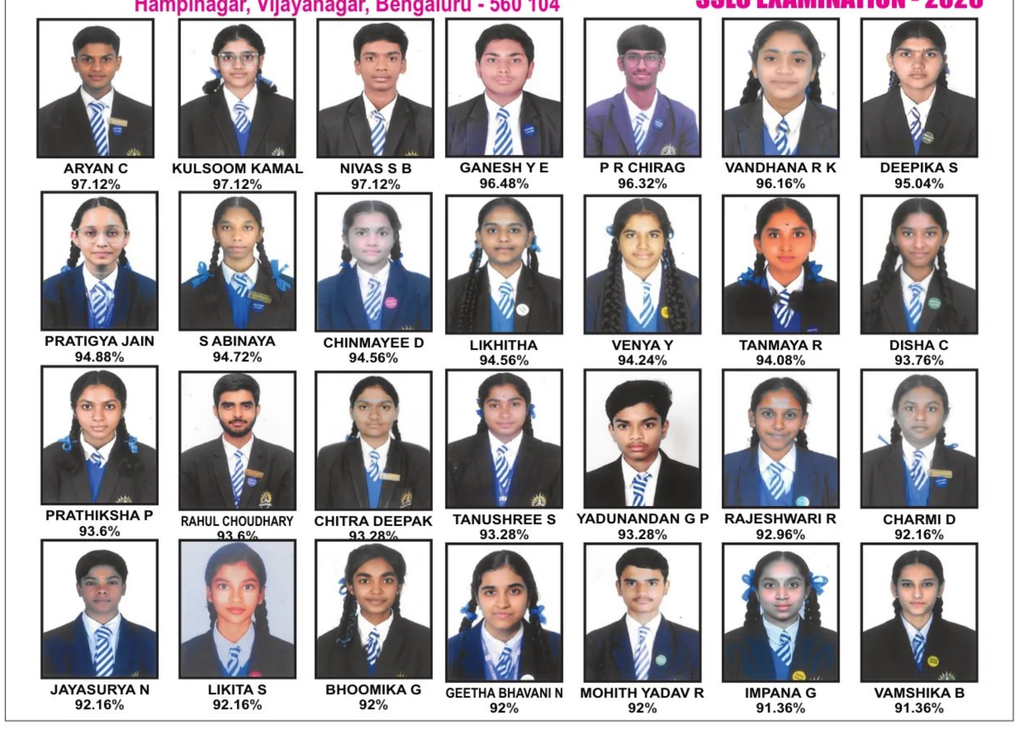


QUICK READ

Panchayat Raj Day celebrated with awards in Karwar

KARWAR

National Panchayat Raj Day was celebrated at the Uttara Kannada Zilla Panchayat office hall on Friday. Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Dileesh Shasi inaugurated the programme by planting saplings. The event recognised outstanding performances of panchayat institutions and officials in the district. Awards were given to taluk panchayats with high tax collection and recovery performance, along with recognition for best Panchayat Development Officers and bill collectors. Officials who supported effective implementation of government schemes were also honoured. Women-led self-help group initiatives under NRLM received appreciation. Certificates were also distributed to officers with good service records. Senior officials and staff from all panchayat levels attended the programme.

Police seek heir of deceased youth in Chitradurga

CHITRADURGA

Police in Chitradurga have issued a notice seeking information about the legal heir of a deceased youth identified as Devaraj, son of Halappa, who was admitted to the district hospital due to severe illness and later died on August 20 at 7.15 am. Officials said the case was registered on April 23. The deceased reportedly said he was from Shivamogga, but his exact address and family details are unknown. He was about 5.4 feet tall, wheatish in complexion, and spoke Kannada. His body has been kept in the district hospital mortuary. Authorities have urged relatives or anyone with information to contact the Chitradurga Nagar Police Station.

Planned power cut announced in Haveri areas

HAVERI

HESCOM has announced a scheduled power outage in several parts of Haveri district on April 26 due to maintenance work at the Shigaon 30/11 KV power distribution station. Officials said electricity supply will be affected from 10 am to 5 pm in areas including Basavanahalli, Jekkinakatti, Shivpura, Konnakeri, Bhadrapur, Mulakeri, Basavankatti, APMC surroundings, and nearby villages and roads along the NH4–Savanur route. Important locations like Basaveshwar Nagar, Court area, and KSID zone will also be impacted. Authorities requested public cooperation during the maintenance work and said the shutdown is necessary to ensure better and stable power supply.

Gadag celebrates Rashtriya Panchayat Raj Day event

Gadag marked Panchayat Raj Day, stressing decentralised governance, stronger Gram Sabhas, and timely Panchayat elections for rural development

GADAG

Rashtriya Panchayat Raj Day was celebrated in Gadag under the joint arrangement of the district administration and Zilla Panchayat, highlighting the importance of decentralised governance in rural development.

Inaugurating the programme, D R Patil, Vice President of the State Decentralisation Planning and Development Committee, said Panchayat Raj Day should be observed as a meaningful occasion that recognises the strength of local governance. He stressed that real development is possible only when power is effectively shared with villages. He also said that delayed Panchayat elections have weakened local administration and urged elected representatives to demand their rights and responsibilities more strongly.

Patil said Gram Sabhas must remain the core of decision-making and villagers should actively participate instead of staying silent on important governance issues. He added that Gadag district has the potential to become a model for decentralised development if the system is used properly.District Collector and Zilla Panchayat CEO C N Sridhar said the Panchayat system has become stronger over time and plays a key role in rural administration. He urged members to develop their wards as model areas and use the powers given under law for public welfare.

Lecturer Prakash Machenahalli explained that Panchayat Raj has deep historical roots and is essential for participatory governance. He said India's villages were once self governed systems and Mahatma Gandhi's vision of village swaraj still guides rural development goals today.Speakers collectively said decentralisation should not remain on paper but must function as a strong people driven system. They called for active involvement of citizens, transparent decision making and better use of local bodies to improve rural life and governance across Karnataka.

Vijayapura Panchayat Day celebrates rural democracy pride

Vijayapura celebrated Panchayat Raj Day, highlighting 73rd Amendment, strengthening rural governance, transparency, and village development as key to national progress

VIJAYAPURA

Rashtriya Panchayat Raj Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Vijayapura district on Friday marking the 73rd Constitutional Amendment that strengthened local self government across India The district Panchayat organized the event to honor rural development and promote better governance

Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Panchayat said Panchayat Raj is the foundation of democracy and empowers rural people He stressed that transparency accountability and public participation are key for village progress India has most people living in villages so development of villages is essential for national growth He also praised officials and staff for their work and urged others to improve performance

Deputy Secretary Prakash Waddar said the day reflects India's democratic spirit He explained the history of Panchayat Raj from ancient village systems to British era decline and post independence reforms He highlighted committees like Balwantrai Mehta Ashoka Mehta and LM Singhvi which led to the 73rd Amendment in 1992 giving constitutional status and more power to PanchayatsSpeakers emphasized that Gram Sabhas are vital for participatory governance and urged citizens to take active part in village meetings They also called for simple language reporting on issues like climate change illegal mining and rural problems Journalists were advised to connect local issues with national and global concerns Several achievers from Panchayats were honoured for performance in tax collection sanitation housing schemes and rural development programmes A health check up camp was also arranged for staff

Officials said the Panchayat system is key to rural Swaraj and urged better use of digital tools for transparent administration They stressed schemes like MGNREGA drinking water sanitation and women empowerment must reach every eligible citizen without delay Leaders from various departments attended and called for teamwork and honest service to strengthen rural development goals The event concluded with a message of unity and commitment to village progress and democratic valuesParticipants appreciated the program as a strong reminder of rural responsibility and good governance ideals and pledged to work for stronger Panchayats in coming years through cooperation and dedication across all villages of the district ensuring inclusive sustainable rural development goals achieved

Krishna H. Hadapada urged scientific road works in Gadag's Hombalanaka colony, highlighting decades of poor infrastructure and hardship

CALL FOR SCIENTIFIC ROAD AND DRAINAGE WORK

GADAG

Krishna H. Hadapada, President of the Hombalanaka Janata Colony Development Service Association in Ward 16 of Gadag city, has urged authorities to ensure that ongoing road works in Hombala Naka Janata Colony are carried out in a scientific and planned manner. He said the colony has suffered for nearly 40 years without proper roads and drainage, causing serious hardship to residents.In a press statement, he said the current road construction brings hope to the area, but warned that without proper planning the effort could fail. He pointed out that in emergencies such as illness or childbirth, even ambulances cannot enter the colony, forcing residents to carry patients to the main road.Hadapada stressed that drainage work must be completed before laying the CC road. He said that if roads are built first and later dug up for sewerage connections, it would waste public money and damage newly constructed roads. He demanded that authorities complete underground drainage work first and then proceed with durable CC road construction.He also urged civic officials and local representatives to inspect the site, remove overgrown vegetation encroaching on the road alignment, and ensure smooth traffic flow.Hadapada appealed to the city officials, including municipal leaders and engineers, to treat the issue seriously and act in the interest of long-term development. He said the residents have waited for decades and deserve a permanent solution, not temporary or unplanned work.

Karnataka faces welfare push political tensions rise

HASSAN

Karnataka is witnessing a mix of welfare progress, political debate, and public service challenges across districts. Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy recently rejected rumours about Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan returning to JD S, saying the party does not need such people. His statement has added heat to ongoing political discussions in the state. Meanwhile government departments are focusing on improving welfare delivery and infrastructure in rural and urban areas. Pension support for state universities has been increased to ease financial pressure. Farmers in Mandya are opposing land acquisition for industrial projects, demanding better compensation. In Dakshina Kannada farmers are being trained to improve exports of crops like pepper and cocoa. Water shortage remains a major concern in Gadag where villages receive supply once in many days.

Ensure power supply for Huligemma jatra festival: Suresh B. Itnal

KOPPAL

District Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal has directed officials to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply and proper lighting arrangements during the upcoming annual jatra of Sri Huligemma Devi Temple in Huligi village.

Chairing a preparatory meeting, he stressed that there should be no power disruptions throughout the fair period. To meet the increased demand, officials have been instructed to install an additional power converter and supply around 100 KW of extra electricity. More staff from the power department will also be deployed to manage operations efficiently.

The District Commissioner emphasized that continuous electricity must be maintained for water supply systems and lighting, especially during night hours when large crowds are expected. Authorities have been told to take all necessary precautions to prevent electrical accidents in busy areas, including parking zones and public gathering spaces.

Special focus has been given to decorative lighting. Officials have been asked to arrange attractive electrical illumination for temple gopurams, arches, and surrounding buildings. Lighting facilities will also be set up near the riverbanks, railway track, tank area, parking lots, and sanitation zones to ensure safety and convenience for devotees.

Mysuru sub-registrar suspended over illegal plot sale case

MYSURU

The Sub-Registrar of Mysuru West office has been suspended after allegations of irregularities in the registration of property documents involving 24 plots. The action was taken following charges of dereliction of duty and violation of official procedures.

According to the order issued by the Inspector General of Registration, the officer is accused of misusing court decree provisions and registering property documents without following government guidelines. A departmental inquiry has also been initiated, and the officer will remain suspended until further orders.

Officials stated that his continuation in the current post could affect evidence, so his responsibilities have been shifted to the central office. He has also been instructed not to leave headquarters without permission during the suspension period.

The case gained attention after complaints were raised regarding alleged illegal registration of plots in Kergalli village.

Magadi leaders ready for open debate

MAGADI

Magadi Block Congress President K. Krishnamurthy has said that MLA H.C. Balakrishna and BDCC Bank President H.N. Ashok are ready for an open discussion as challenged by former MLA A. Manjunath regarding alleged scams in Chakrabhavi VSSN and Kudur BDCC Bank.Speaking at a press conference held at the Congress office in Magadi on Friday, Krishnamurthy said that a date and venue for the discussion will be fixed, but only former MLA Manjunath will attend from his side, while other Congress leaders will not be part of the debate. He clarified that there is no confusion within the party regarding participation.

He added that MLAs H.C. Balakrishna and H.N. Ashok are prepared for a healthy and transparent discussion. According to him, Congress and JD(S) parties will nominate 10 representatives each for the event, and the police have also issued necessary instructions for conducting the meeting peacefully.

Krishnamurthy stated that the discussion will be held without any pressure or exaggeration and will focus on issues such as alleged irregularities in BDCC Bank, gold jewellery investigations, encroachment matters, and a reported Rs 600 crore Public Works Department scam.

He also said that former MLA Manjunath's call for a debate is acceptable, but discussions should be based on facts and not political accusations. Congress leaders present at the press meet supported the decision to proceed with an orderly and issue-based dialogue.

MORAL VALUES MESSAGE

Rajkumar's simple life inspires youth: Ashwin

CHIKKABALLAPURA

A programme marking Dr. Rajkumar Jayanti was held at the District Collector's office hall in Chikkaballapura with tributes from officials, writers, and fans. Sub-Divisional Officer D H Ashwin said that Dr. Rajkumar's simple lifestyle and strong moral values should be followed by everyone, especially young people.

He said Rajkumar was a legendary actor who remained humble despite his fame and always stayed close to common people. Officials noted that his films often carried strong social messages and encouraged people to live with discipline and respect for culture. They also said he avoided smoking and drinking scenes in films, setting a personal example of values on screen and off screen.

Kannada Sahitya Parishad leaders said Rajkumar was a powerful symbol of Kannada pride and played major roles in mythological, historical and social films. They added that he supported the Gokak movement and contributed to strengthening the Kannada language movement across the state.Speakers also recalled Rajkumar's early life and entry into cinema through theatre and his debut film, after which he became one of the most respected figures in Indian cinema. His connection with Chikkaballapura was also remembered, including film shootings in nearby villages and Nandi Hills.Journalists and fans shared memories of his life, saying his songs, acting and humility continue to inspire generations. Cultural programmes and songs from his films were performed during the event, adding emotional moments to the celebration.Officials, writes, and fan associations together called Rajkumar not just a film actor but a cultural icon who shaped Kannada identity and values. They urged students and youth to adopt his principles of simplicity, discipline, and dedication in daily life for a better society ahead.

Dr Rajkumar legacy inspires leaders always: MLA T. Raghumurthy

CHITRADURGA

Dr Rajkumar 97th birthday was celebrated in Chitradurga with tributes by leaders and officials. MLA T. Raghumurthy said Rajkumar's life values are an ideal for everyone and his films carried strong social messages. He noted that Rajkumar acted in mythological, literary and social films and inspired people to find purpose in life through cinema.

He also recalled Puneeth Rajkumar's service mindset and said both father and son are remembered for humility and social work. Speakers highlighted Rajkumar's role in the Gokak movement that helped make Kannada the first language in schools across Karnataka. They said his simplicity, discipline, and connection with theatre made him a cultural icon beyond cinema. Officials and journalists also remembered his support for public causes, including contributions to local development projects in Chitradurga.

The event concluded with songs from Rajkumar films performed by local artists, creating an emotional atmosphere among participants.

QUICK READ

Man dies of electrocution while picking mangoes

MANIPAL

A 55-year-old man died after being electrocuted while harvesting mangoes behind the Rajatadri District Magistrate's Office complex on Friday morning. Police said an overhead electric wire near a tree came into contact with an iron pole used for picking mangoes, leading to the fatal shock. The deceased has been identified as Sadanand Devadiga, a resident of Alevoor village and reportedly a village assistant by profession. He died on the spot. Fire and emergency services personnel and police reached the location and shifted the body. A case has been registered at Manipal Police Station and further investigation is underway.

New Mangalore Port achieves full solar power milestone

Mangaluru

The New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) has officially attained 100% solar-powered operations, marking a significant step forward under India's Green Port Initiative.According to an official announcement, the port has generated a cumulative total of 57.96 million kWh of solar energy since the financial year 2016-17. During the current fiscal year 2025-26 alone, solar power production reached 56.5 lakh kWh.This renewable energy achievement has resulted in a substantial reduction of approximately 4,800 tonnes in carbon emissions. In addition, the port has realised cost savings of around □3.5 crore on electricity expenses. The development highlights NMPA's commitment to sustainable and environmentally responsible port management.

Mandya announces long power cut on April 25

MANDYA

The Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) has announced a scheduled power outage in parts of Mandya on April 25 due to quarterly maintenance work at the Chikka Mandya Power Distribution Centre. Officials said electricity supply will be disrupted from 9 am to 6 pm. The shutdown will affect urban areas such as Shankarpur, Jain Street, Beedi Colony, Jabar Circle, Holalu Circle, and Vinayakananda area, along with rural regions including Gopalpur, Chikkamandya, Sathanur, Kommerahalli, Huliwana, K. Goudagere, H. Malligere, S.I. Kodihalli, Sampahalli, and Goravale. Authorities requested public cooperation during the maintenance work to ensure better power services.

Human-wildlife conflict rising due to encroachment: KV Prabhakar

KV Prabhakar urged journalists to highlight environmental damage, study widely, and responsibly report people's ecological concerns

TUMKUR

KV Prabhakar, Media Adviser to the Chief Minister, said that environmental destruction in the name of development is a serious concern. He spoke at a seminar on Environmental Journalism Celebration held at Siddhartha Center for Media Studies in Tumkur. He said encroachment of traditional wildlife land is increasing human-wildlife conflict.

He said the seminar is not only academic but also a reminder of media responsibility during the environmental crisis. He added that how journalists see and understand facts shapes their professionalism. He advised aspiring journalists to read at least five newspapers daily and understand issues from village to national level.

He said journalism in India still has strong foundations built by senior journalists, and it must continue with new methods even under corporate media control. He stressed that journalists should act as the voice of people affected by environmental damage rather than only informing them.

He highlighted that environmental reporting should connect local issues from places like Tumkur with national and global struggles. This will give strength to local movements. He said journalists must have courage to question environmental damage caused in the name of development and also highlight positive examples of conservation.He explained that complex issues like climate change and global warming should be written in simple language so that common people can understand them. He also said environmental journalism is not only desk work but requires field visits to forests, hills, and villages.

He suggested that journalists should learn basic environmental laws to report issues like illegal mining and forest encroachment more effectively. He also encouraged the use of social media to spread environmental awareness.He said organizing seminars on environmental journalism is important at a time when news is dominated by politics and crime. He warned that the environmental crisis will grow in coming years and media must act as a bridge between government and people.He appreciated Siddhartha Media Studies Center for encouraging students to build both knowledge and social concern among the students. He urged responsible journalism for sustainable future balancing development and environment protection now.

Committee formed to monitor scanning centres strictly

MANDYA

Dr. Kumar has called for strict monitoring of all scanning centres in the district and proposed formation of a special committee following reports of illegal fetal gender detection under the PCPNDT Act. He was speaking at a review meeting held at the district collector's office after Lokayukta police registered a case based on irregularities found in private diagnostic centres. He said that scanning records were not maintained properly and instructed officials to conduct a detailed inspection of all centres along with district and taluk level committees within ten days. He directed that FR forms for the last six months should be audited and reports submitted in prescribed format to ensure compliance with rules. The committee will also verify cases involving minors and ensure immediate action under the POCSO Act and PCPNDT Act where violations are found.

Chikkaballapura marks Panchayat Raj Day progress

DC G Prabhu praised gram panchayats' governance, Chikkaballapura's tax ranking, land rights drive, and rising local revenue for rural development

CHIKKABALLAPURA

National Panchayat Raj Day was celebrated at the District Administration Hall in Chikkaballapura, highlighting the role of gram panchayats in rural governance and development.

District Collector G Prabhu said gram panchayat staff and elected representatives must work with responsibility and within the law to ensure better results for rural communities. He noted that gram panchayats function as the backbone of local governance, managing services like schools, hospitals, and other public institutions effectively.

He said people's participation and cooperation with local bodies have helped the district achieve strong performance in tax collection and governance indicators. Chikkaballapura district has secured second place in tax collection in the state and fourth place in the Panchayat Raj administrative system, he added.Officials also highlighted progress under the Special Revenue Gram Abhiyan 2.0 programme, under which thousands of land rights certificates are being issued. The district is preparing to distribute over one lakh such certificates in the coming months to improve land ownership records.

Upalokayukta Justice B Veerappa launched rural cleanliness drive in Srinivasapur, stressing sanitation, accountability, and welfare delivery

LOKAYUKTA DRIVES RURAL CLEANLINESS PUSH IN SRINIVASAPURA

SRINIVASAPURA

Karnataka Upalokayukta Justice B Veerappa on Friday launched a cleanliness and awareness drive across several gram panchayats in Srinivasapur taluk, including Gownipalli, Rayalpadu, Nelavanki-Lakshmipura and Tadigol Cross, focusing on improving rural sanitation and accountability in public services.

He said cleanliness in villages should not be treated as a one-time programme but must become a continuous public movement. He also stressed that both officials and citizens share responsibility in maintaining hygiene and ensuring better living conditions in rural areas.

Justice Veerappa warned government officials to act responsibly within legal limits and ensure that welfare schemes reach every eligible beneficiary. He said negligence in duty would lead to strict accountability if problems persist in villages.

Kolar Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr Praveen P Bagewadi said development in rural areas is possible only with active participation of local communities. He highlighted that drinking water systems are being repaired on priority and said gram panchayats in the district have achieved full tax collection. He also noted that Kolar has recorded 100 per cent progress in MGNREGA work generation.

Officials said sanitation has been strengthened across villages through regular cleaning drives and awareness programmes. GPS tracking has been introduced for waste collection vehicles to improve monitoring and ensure timely service delivery. Action will be taken against any negligence, they added.

Taluk Panchayat officials said daily waste collection systems and soak pits have been implemented to improve drainage and hygiene in villages.As part of the programme, roads, public areas, and village surroundings were cleaned, while residents and shopkeepers were advised to maintain cleanliness.Senior officials including the Deputy Commissioner and Zilla Panchayat officers participated in the drive along with MGNREGA and panchayat staff.

MLA says artists must serve society beyond

UDUPI

MLA Yashpal Suvarna said that Dr. Rajkumar's life and values should be followed by the youth as a model of simplicity and social commitment. He was speaking while inaugurating the Dr. Rajkumar Jayanti programme organised jointly by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Information and Public Relations Department, Udupi, and the Indian Red Cross Society at the Red Cross Hall in Brahmagiri.Suvarna said that celebrating the birth anniversary of a film actor at the national level is rare, and Rajkumar remains unique not only as an actor but also as a simple and humane personality. He added that Rajkumar's way of life showed how artists can contribute meaningfully to society beyond cinema. He urged the youth to study Rajkumar's life and adopt his values.Indian Red Cross State President Basarur Rajeev Shetty, who presided over the programme, said that Rajkumar's achievements and popularity make him a pride of Karnataka.

Kalaburagi to mark Buddha Jayanti on May 1

KALABURAGI

Kalaburagi district will celebrate Lord Buddha Jayanti on May 1 with traditional enthusiasm, officials confirmed during a preparatory meeting held on Friday at the District Commissioner's office hall.

The meeting was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Rayappa Hunasagi, who said the main programme will be held at 9 am in front of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar statue at Jagat Circle in the city. He urged officials and community leaders to take part in large numbers to ensure the success of the celebration.

He also instructed that Buddha Jayanti should be observed mandatorily at 9 am in all government offices, schools, and colleges across the district. Proper arrangements, including cleanliness, drinking water, and basic facilities at the main venue, were directed to be ensured without fail.

Officials were asked to select the Jayanti committee president and invite experienced speakers for the event. He stressed that the celebration should reflect respect for Lord Buddha's teachings and values.

Deputy Director of the Kannada and Culture Department Jagadeeshwari A. Nasi informed the meeting that a press invitation would be issued as per protocol. She added that cultural programmes, including devotional music and national songs, will be part of the celebration.

Several officials and community representatives attended the meeting and discussed arrangements for smooth conduct of the event. They emphasized coordination between departments to maintain discipline and ensure public participation.

Rajkumar birthday celebrated with simplicity and love

MAGADI

The birth anniversary of legendary Kannada actor Dr. Rajkumar was celebrated in a simple yet meaningful manner at Kalyagate Circle in Magadi town by members of his fan association.The celebration focused on children rather than a grand public event. After offering prayers to the portrait of Dr. Rajkumar, a cake was cut and distributed among children, creating a joyful atmosphere. Due to unavoidable reasons, a large-scale food arrangement could not be organized this year, but sweets were distributed to hundreds of fans who gathered at the venue.Speaking on the occasion, fan association president Basavaraj said Dr. Rajkumar was not just an actor but a symbol of Kannada identity. He added that the actor's simplicity, love for language and culture continue to inspire people, and following his ideals would be a true tribute.Musician Srinivas said Dr. Rajkumar will always remain in the hearts of people and his films carry valuable life lessons. He highlighted that the actor's roles reflected history, culture and moral values, making them relevant even today.Other members including Shivakumar, T.M. Srinivas, Maranna, Nagesh, Raju, Mahesh and Praveen were present. The event concluded with fans remembering the actor's legacy and pledging to follow his values in daily life.

EDUCATION REGULATION DEMAND

Farmers demand action on coaching centres

DEVADURGA

The Karnataka State Farmers' Association (Chunnappa Poojary faction) has urged authorities to take strict legal action against several unauthorised coaching centres operating in Devadurga taluk. The association submitted a petition to the Field Education Officer on Friday, alleging that many centres are running without proper government permission.

In the petition, the leaders said these institutions are claiming to provide quality education while violating rules and financially exploiting parents. They demanded immediate action against centres operating illegally in the area.

The association listed several coaching centres, including Vidyadeepa Coaching Center, Akshara Dama Public School, Global Coaching Center, Sadhana School, Vidyakashi Coaching, Nisarga Coaching, A.I. Coaching Center, Suryodaya Coaching, Royal Kids School, Astro Kids, J.M. Coaching, Vidyajyothi Coaching, Gyan Gangotri Coaching Center, Adarsh Coaching, and S.K.M. Coaching Center, among others.

Farmers' leaders said that unchecked growth of such institutions is affecting both students and parents, and urged the education department to inspect and regulate all coaching centres immediately. They also stressed that education-related violations should not be ignored and called for proper monitoring mechanisms at the taluk level.Leaders Mahendra Mathri, Hanumantraya Dore, Thimmanna Gowda, Basaiah Swamy, Maruti Nayak, Sugaraddi Gowda, Chandra Nayak, Nagaraj, and others were present during the submission of the petition and supported the demand for strict action.

Hunsur Virajpet road potholes spark local anger

HUNSUR

The road connecting State Highway 90 near Hunsur to National Highway 275 via Virajpet and Madikeri is in a badly damaged condition with large potholes, causing serious problems for daily commuters.

According to locals and regular road users, the stretch was in good condition just six months ago, but it has been dug up and poorly filled by highway authorities, leaving uneven patches of soil and gravel.

Heavy traffic movement has made travel difficult, especially for school and college students, farmers, and tourists heading towards Madikeri and Virajpet during the summer season.If monsoon rains begin soon, locals fear the potholes will worsen and increase the risk of accidents on this important route.

QUICK READ

Panchayat Raj Day marked with awards in Yallapur

KARWAR

National Panchayat Raj Day was celebrated at Yallapur Taluk Panchayat under the joint auspices of local bodies and staff associations. Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Rajesh Dhanwadkar highlighted the importance of effective implementation of schemes like MGNREGA, SBM, housing, and NRLM. He praised the efforts of staff in improving tax collection and service delivery at the gram panchayat level. He also spoke about the history and significance of the Panchayat Raj system and urged cooperation among departments for better governance. Association leader Prabhakar Bhat encouraged stress-free and dedicated work. Officials who achieved 100 percent targets were honoured. Several departmental officers and staff attended the event.

Municipal body carries out desilting drives across key localities

Mangaluru

Officials from the Engineering Department of the Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC) have initiated desilting activities in multiple areas of the city to clear accumulated silt from drainage systems. The operations covered Jeppinamogaru, Kottara Chowki, and the Vaidyanathanagara neighbourhood in Attavar.

Festivals reflect culture says Speaker UT Khader

Khader highlighted rural festivals preserving culture, promoting agriculture awareness, equality, tourism growth, and community participation in Mudipu

KONAJE

Speaker UT Khader inaugurated a three-day agricultural fair and Mudipu festival at Mudipu under joint organisation of local committees and trusts. He said festivals are symbols of country's heritage and culture and bring people together in harmony. He praised Dr. Madan Mohan Naik for developing Sri Krishna Dhyana Kendra which has made Mudipu a centre of peace and tourism.

Khader said rural festivals help preserve tradition while also supporting local farmers and culture based economy. He added that society should move towards equality and harmony and parents must teach values along with education to children. He said Mudipu will become a major tourism destination in coming years due to such community festivals. Legislative Council member Manjunath Bhandari

also spoke and appreciated local development efforts and organisation of the festival. The event also included agricultural exhibitions, food stalls and awareness programmes on soil health, pest control and value addition techniques. Various competitions such as walking race for women and hill run for youth attracted large participation from visitors. Organisers said the festival aims to promote agriculture awareness and cultural unity among rural communities in the region. The event was attended by several leaders, officials, farmers and local residents who appreciated the initiative and called it a meaningful celebration of tradition and development. They said such programmes help strengthen rural economy while preserving cultural identity for future generations. Organisers expressed gratitude to all participants and assured that the Mudipu festival will continue to grow in coming years with wider participation and improved facilities for visitors. Authorities said the festival also encourages eco-friendly practices and supports local artisans directly

Collector pushes manuscript survey digital preservation drive

UDUPI

District Collector Swarup T.K. has directed officials to carry out the manuscript survey work under the Jnana Bharatam Mission effectively in the district. He said the initiative aims to preserve ancient handwritten manuscripts and pass knowledge to future generations using modern digital technology. He was speaking at a meeting held at the Manipal Rajatadri District Collector's office regarding implementation of the project.The survey includes collection, preservation, digitisation, translation, and publication of manuscripts across temples, mutts, libraries, and private collections. He said manuscripts found on palm leaves and old documents contain valuable knowledge in science, medicine, literature, and religion. He stressed that preserving them is a shared responsibility of society and institutions, and urged cooperation from all stakeholders.More than 6,000 manuscripts have already been digitised from 40

centres in the district through

DC Swarup T.K. directed Jnana Bharatam manuscript survey, focusing on collecting, digitising, and preserving ancient knowledge from temples, mutts, libraries, and private collections

the ongoing survey process. He also said citizens can participate through the Jnana Bharatam mobile application to upload details and contribute to documentation. A district coordinator has been appointed for guidance and training support, and awareness is being spread in rural areas. Officials and experts present at the meeting included urban development planners, archaeologists, and local representatives. The Collector instructed departments to ensure timely execution, proper coordination, and protection of fragile manuscripts from damage or loss. He appealed to mutts, temples, libraries, and individuals to actively support the survey mission and safeguard cultural heritage for future generations.The administration said the project will create a permanent digital archive of manuscripts, making them accessible for research, education, and public knowledge across Karnataka and beyond.

Chitradurga DC meeting focused on drought relief, urgent drinking water supply, borewells, and 24/7 disaster response cells

Urgent water crisis meeting held in Chitradurga district

CHITRADURGA

District Disaster Management meeting was held in Chitradurga under the chairmanship of District Collector T. Venkatesh where urgent steps were directed to solve drinking water problems in drought-hit areas of the district. MLA T. Raghumurthy said officials must respond quickly in villages facing drinking water shortage and ensure supply without delay. He said water supply works under Jal Jeevan Mission should be completed and overhead tanks filled immediately so that rural people do not suffer during summer. MLA BG Govindappa suggested renting private borewells in Hosadurga taluk to supply water to affected villages and warned against poor coordination in distribution. MLA KC Virendra Pappi said water should be supplied to nearby areas of Chitradurga city and urged private management of RO plants for better maintenance. Collector Venkatesh said disaster management cells should function 24 hours in all taluk offices with helplines for public complaints and faster response systems. He said priority must be given to drinking water security and advance planning for summer, noting that 15 areas already face shortage and 69 villages may be affected. Officials informed that RO plants are being repaired, borewells drilled and tanker use reduced compared to previous drought years, ensuring better preparedness this year. Authorities also reviewed

crop damage caused by hailstorm, especially in Hiriyur taluk, and said compensation will be directly credited to farmers' accounts. Officials from various departments including agriculture, horticulture, and rural development attended the meeting and discussed long-term solutions for water and fodder availability. District officials said coordination between departments is being strengthened to ensure timely response during disaster situations. They stressed using private borewells, repairing infrastructure and improving monitoring systems to prevent water crisis escalation.

FAKE PRODUCTS WARNING

Consumer awareness key to social change movement

KALABURAGI

Change in society is possible when consumers become aware of their rights and act responsibly, said Malathi Reshmi, in-charge president of the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, on Friday. She was speaking at the World Consumer Rights Day programme organised by the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department along with the Consumer Commission at Aiwan-e-Shahi Guest House in Kalaburagi.

She said that consumers should not remain only buyers but should understand quality, safety and legal rights. Awareness can protect people from harmful and fake products in the market. She warned that adulterated food items are increasing and can seriously affect public health.Malathi Reshmi suggested that people should prefer clean and safe food. She also encouraged families to start small oil production units using groundnut or safflower seeds with government support, which can help in getting pure food at home and create self-employment opportunities.She explained that the Consumer Protection Act 2019 has strengthened consumer rights and provides simple ways to solve complaints through mediation without going to court. She added that people can also take legal action in cases of medical negligence or unfair trade practices.Advocate Vaijnath Jhalki, who spoke at the event, said that consumers must know both their rights and duties. Even small unfair practices should not be ignored. An aware consumer helps build a fair society.Participants also raised concern about lack of proper laboratory facilities in Kalaburagi, which makes testing food quality difficult. Officials and consumer groups attended the programme and discussed ways to improve awareness and safety for all citizens.

The programme concluded with a call for stronger consumer awareness initiatives

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AVADHOOT SHIVASHANKAR TALAWAR S/o SHIVASHANKAR S T, R/o Sindagi Road, Basavarajendra Nagar, Indi, Vijayapura, Karnataka-586209, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AVADHOOT TALAWAR.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MAHESH D S/o DODDAIAH .K R/o 941, Sri Kamalalaya, BSK 6th Stage, 11th Block, Kengeri, Near Ganakallu (V), Bengaluru, Karnataka-560060, have changed the name of my minor daughter MOULYA .M alias MOULYA M aged 13 years and she shall hereafter be known as AVISHKA TEJA GOWDA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CHETHAN K GADIYA S/o RAMESH CHAND BHANDARI, R/o 43, Laxmi Villa, Near Jain Stanak Bhawan, Srirampuram, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560021, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as CHETHAN R BHANDARI.

IN THE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
Crl Misc No. 19 /2026

PETITIONERS: 1. Sri. Anjinappa S/o late Muniyappa Aged about 68 years, **2. Sri. Krishna Murthy** S/o late Muniyappa Aged about 62 years, **3. Sri. Muni Anjinappa** S/o late Muniyappa Aged about 51 years, **4. Sri. Narasappa** S/o late Muniyappa Aged about 45 years All are the Petitioners are R/at Seegehalli Village, Thubagere Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. V/S

RESPONDENT : The Registrar of Birth & Deaths, The Tahasildar, Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur.

DRAFT PAPER PUBLICATION

The petitioners are filed this petition for grant of death certificate of father of the petitioners by name Late father of petitioners, by name **Sri. Muniyappa** S/o late Kotappa, who died on 15/07/2005, at Seegehalli Village, Thubagere Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

1. Whom so ever if any person who are related or interest or dispute date of death of **Sri.Muniyappa** may hereby directed to appear in the above said court in person or through pleader duly instructed and to able to answer all material question raising in the petition on the day of 16.05.2026 at 11 AM in said court.
2. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date before mentioned in the petition, it will be heard and determine ex- parte.

Given under my hand seal of the court on the day of 24.04.2026.

By order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura

Advocate for petitioners: **Sri.Santhosh.M**, Advocate Doddaballapur

IN THE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
Crl Misc No. 24 /2026

PETITIONERS: 1. Sri. Anjinappa S/o late Muniyappa Aged about 68 years, **2. Sri. Krishna Murthy** S/o late Muniyappa Aged about 62 years, **3. Sri. Muni Anjinappa** S/o late Muniyappa Aged about 51 years, **4. Sri. Narasappa** S/o late Muniyappa Aged about 45 years All are the Petitioners are R/at Seegehalli Village, Thubagere Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. V/S

RESPONDENT : The Registrar of Birth & Deaths, The Tahasildar, Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur.

DRAFT PAPER PUBLICATION

The petitioners are filed this petition for grant of death certificate of father of the petitioners by name **Smt. Venktamma W/o Muniyappa** S/o late Kotappa, who died on 05/01/2013, at Seegehalli Village, Thubagere Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

1. Whom so ever if any person who are related or interest or dispute date of death of **Smt. Venktamma** may hereby directed to appear in the above said court in person or through pleader duly instructed and to able to answer all material question raising in the petition on the day of 16.05.2026 at 11 AM in said court.
2. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date before mentioned in the petition, it will be heard and determine ex- parte.

Given under my hand seal of the court on the day of 24.04.2026.

By order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura

Advocate for petitioners: **Sri.Santhosh.M**, Advocate Doddaballapur

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PREETHI SAMPATH KUMAR (old name), a resident of No 64, PHILOMINA ILLAM, MARIA SEVA SANGHA LAYOUT, TC, PALYA MAINROAD, SANATHAMANAHALLI, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA - 560036 INDIA, have changed my name to PREETHI SAMPATH (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 24-04-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.V

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AKSHAT DURGESH NAYAK S/o DURGESH, R/o 204, Rotson Heritage Apartment, 2ndFloor, Vidyanagar, Behind Amrut Talkies, Hubli, Hubli Vidyanagar, Dharwad, Karnataka-580021, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUBRAMANYAM NAYAK.

NAME CHANGE

I, **MOHAMMED SHAFIULLA,** S/o Mohammed Zakria, resident of No. 4, 1st Main, Lalji Nagar, Rangaswamy Layout, Near ANB Mosque, Bengaluru-560030,have changed my name to **SHAFIULLA**, vide affidavit dated: 23.04.2026, before Notary V.RAJASHEKHARA, Bangalore

NAME CHANGE

I, **SUNIL KUMAR S**, S/o. Sita Ram Mahto, Resident of No. 109/13, Mehta Nivas, 25th Cross, 4th Main, Krishna Layout, Hulimavu B G Road, Bengaluru -560076, Karnataka, have changed my name to **SUNIL KUMAR**, vide affidavit dated: 24.04.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ANOOP KUMAR K S**, S/o. Kalburgi S S, Resident of BDA Kaniminike Phase 4, Block 2, Flat 604, 6th Floor, Kumbalgod, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru -560074, Karnataka, have changed my name to **ANOOP KUMAR**, vide affidavit dated: 24.04.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, K LOKESHBABU S/o C KRISHNA REDDY R/o Muthanallur, Bangalore, Karnataka560099, have changed the name of my minor son DHAKSHITH L aged 17 years and he shall hereafter be known as DHAKSHITH L REDDY.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, G SATHISH S/o G. VENKATESWAR REDDY, R/o Flat-008, Srishti Vaibhav, 1st Main Road, L B S Nagar, H A L Post, Vimanapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560017, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GOODREDDY SATHISH.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ARUN KUMAR alias K. ARUN KUMAR alias ARUN KUMAR K alias K ARUN KUMAR alias ARUN KUMAR KRISHNAPPA S/o KRISHNAPPA, R/o 52, 11th Cross, 3rd Main, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, Near S B I, Chandra Layout, Bangalore, Karnataka-560040, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AARON MAVERICK GRANT.

THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
CRL.MISC.NO. 1214/2026

Petitioner; Sri,Ramakrishnappa S/o Late Maddurappa, Aged about 40 years, R/at Gundamagere Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District V/s

Respondent; The Thahashildar, Doddaballapura Taluk Doddaballapur

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereea the Petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13(3) and 14 of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his grand father by name SRI, RAMAIAH S/O LATE RANGANNA who died 18-09-1983 at Gundamagere Village, Sasalu Hobali, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. In this regard it is hereby noticed thet whoever has interested in this said matter may Apper in person or through advocate duly authorized before court 29.05.2026 at 11 AM in default this will be heard and disposed off Ex-parte order.

Given under my hand seal the court on the 22nd day April 2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer Prl Civil Judge & JMFC at Doddaballapur

Advocate: **Sri Nataraju BL,**
Doddaballapur -561203
Dated 01-04-2026.

THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
CRL.MISC.NO. 1235/2026

Petitioner; Sri,Ramakrishnappa S/o Late Maddurappa, Aged about 40 years, R/at Gundamagere Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District V/s

Respondent; The Thahashildar, Doddaballapura Taluk Doddaballapur

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereea the Petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13(3) and 14 of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his grand mother by name SMT, NAGAMMA W/O LATE RAMAIAH who died 09-03-1989 at Gundamagere Village, Sasalu Hobali, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. In this regard it is hereby noticed thet whoever has interested in this said matter may Apper in person or through advocate duly authorized before court 29.05.2026 at 11 AM in default this will be heard and disposed off Ex-parte order.

Given under my hand seal the court on the 22nd day April 2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer Prl Civil Judge & JMFC at Doddaballapur

Advocate: **Sri Nataraju BL,**
Doddaballapur -561203
Dated 01-04-2026.

THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
CRL.MISC.NO. 187/2026

Petitioner; Sri Siddagangaiah S/o Late Maluvallaiah Aged about 78 years, R/at # 41 Kannamangala Village, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District V/s

Respondent; The Thahashildar, Doddaballapura Taluk Doddaballapur

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereea the Petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13(3) and 14 of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his mother by name SMT. NANJAMMA W/O MALUVALLAIAH who died 09.06.1976 at Kannamangala Village, Madhure Hobali, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. In this regard it is hereby noticed thet whoever has interested in this said matter may Apper in person or through advocate duly authorized before court 29.05.2026 at 11 AM in default this will be heard and disposed off Ex-parte order.

Given under my hand seal the court on the 22nd day April 2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer Prl Civil Judge & JMFC at Doddaballapur

Advocate: **Sri Nataraju BL,** Doddaballapur -561203
Dated 01-04-2026.

THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
CRL.MISC.NO. 189/2026

Petitioner; Sri Siddagangaiah S/o Late Maluvallaiah Aged about 78 years, R/at # 41 Kannamangala Village, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District V/s

Respondent; The Thahashildar, Doddaballapura Taluk Doddaballapur

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereea the Petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13(3) and 14 of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his father by name MALUVALLAIAH S/O SANJEEVAIAH who died 20.03.1986 at Kannamangala Village, Madhure Hobali, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. In this regard it is hereby noticed thet whoever has interested in this said matter may Apper in person or through advocate duly authorized before court 29.05.2026 at 11 AM in default this will be heard and disposed off Ex-parte order.

Given under my hand seal the court on the 22nd day April 2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer Prl Civil Judge & JMFC at Doddaballapur

Advocate: **Sri Nataraju BL,** Doddaballapur -561203
Dated 01-04-2026.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KAJAL NARENDRAKUMAR KANSAL D/o NARENDRAKUMAR KANSAL, W/o ARUN KUMAR SINGH, R/o Flat No.D110, Vaishno Signature, No.1, Hoodi Main Road, Anup Layout, Ayyappa Nagar, Krishnarajapura, Bangalore, Karnataka-560048, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAJAL KANSAL SINGH.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHRUTI SUHAS KULKARNI W/o ABHILASH K, R/o D-103, Kingston Grandeur Apartment, Sannathammanahalli TC Palya Main Road, Opposite to KFC, Anandpura KR Puram Hobli, Krishnarajapuram, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560036, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHRUTI KULKARNI.

NAME CHANGE

I, **NAGARATNA RUDRAPPA**, W/o. Chethan Ramachandra, Resident of No. 26, Anchepalya Main Road, Anjaneya Swamy Layout, Totadaguddadahalli, Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru -560073, Karnataka, have changed my name to **NAGARATHNA RUDRAPPA**, vide affidavit dated: 24.04.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

QUICK READ

Gehlot criticises Rajasthan govt over delay in conducting local body polls

Jaipur

Senior Congress leader and former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot extended greetings on National Panchayati Raj Day while raising concerns over delays in local body elections in the state. Ashok Gehlot conveyed his wishes to citizens on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day, highlighting the importance of grassroots democracy and local self-governance. He emphasized that Panchayati Raj institutions play a vital role in empowering rural communities and ensuring inclusive development across the country. At the same time, Gehlot strongly criticised the current administration in Rajasthan for failing to conduct local body elections in a timely manner. He stated that such delays weaken democratic processes at the grassroots level and deprive citizens of their right to elect representatives in local governance bodies.

Delhi HC rejects police plea to cancel Ishrat Jahan's bail

New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Friday declined to interfere with the bail granted to former Congress councillor Ishrat Jahan in a case linked to the alleged larger conspiracy behind the 2020 North-East Delhi riots. Dismissing an appeal filed by the Delhi Police seeking cancellation of bail, a Division Bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Ravinder Dudeja observed that more than four years have elapsed since Jahan was granted relief, and there were no allegations of breach of conditions imposed by the trial court. Jahan was arrested in February 2020 in connection with a larger conspiracy case linked to the riots, registered under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Indian Penal Code, the Arms Act, and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

BJP Confident of Big Lead in First Phase of West Bengal Polls

The Bharatiya Janata Party has expressed strong confidence in securing a commanding lead in the first phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah projecting a decisive victory.

KOLKATA

Senior leader Amit Shah on Friday stated that the Bharatiya Janata Party is likely to win at least 110 out of the 152 constituencies that went to polls in the first phase held on April 23. He said the estimate was based on an extensive overnight analysis conducted by party leaders and strategists following the conclusion of voting.

Addressing media persons, Shah asserted that the party is on track to form the next government in West Bengal with a clear majority. He thanked voters for their participation and described the electoral process as a shift from fear to hope, suggesting that public sentiment is favoring change.

He also acknowledged the role of security personnel, election officials, and the state police in ensuring a peaceful voting process. According to Shah, the absence of election-related fatalities in the first phase marked a significant improvement compared to past elections in the state.

In a pointed political remark, Shah indicated that the next Chief Minister of West Bengal would be a local leader deeply rooted in the state's culture and language. Referring indirectly to incumbent Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, he said her successor would be a true Bengali, educated in the Bengali medium and closely connected to the people of the state.

Looking ahead to the second phase of polling scheduled for April 29, Shah said the BJP is targeting victory in at least 77 constituencies out of the 142 going to vote. He acknowledged that the overall contest remains challenging but expressed confidence in the party's growing support base across the state.

The BJP does not make the government; the people choose it, Shah said, adding that he sees a strong wave of support building in favor of his party. As the multi-phase election continues, political observers are closely watching whether these projections translate into actual electoral gains.

Tejashwi Yadav Targets Bihar Govt Over Finances and Political Instability

PATNA

During the heated discussion in the Bihar Legislative Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav accused the administration led by Samrat Choudhary of pushing the state into a severe financial crisis. He claimed that Bihar is burdened with a debt of nearly Rs 4 lakh crore and that the state treasury is under immense pressure, raising doubts about the government's ability to fund development projects.

Tejashwi further alleged that even basic financial obligations, such as pension payments, are facing constraints, indicating deeper structural issues in governance. He questioned how the government could promise growth and infrastructure development when, according to him, existing commitments are already difficult to meet.

Taking aim at the ruling alliance, he dismissed the popular political slogan associated with Nitish Kumar as misleading. He argued that the lack of a clearly declared chief ministerial candidate by the Bharatiya Janata Party has contributed to uncertainty and weakened governance in the state.

Describing Bihar as a political laboratory, Tejashwi pointed to frequent changes in government over recent years as evidence of instability. He claimed that despite long periods in power, the National Democratic Alliance has failed to ensure consistent governance or deliver long-term stability.

In a sharp personal remark, he suggested that internal dissent within the ruling coalition could threaten the Chief Minister's position, hinting at underlying tensions among alliance partners. He also alleged that several leaders in the government were originally from other political parties, contributing to ideological inconsistency.

Citing leaders such as Vijay Kumar Sinha, Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, and Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Tejashwi argued that many members of the ruling camp had switched affiliations over time. He further invoked Lalu Prasad Yadav to suggest that political influences from past alliances continue to shape current leadership dynamics. The remarks intensified the political debate in Bihar, highlighting sharp divisions between the opposition and the ruling coalition as the state navigates both financial and governance challenges.

ACB Intensifies Probe in DA Case of Suspended Andhra Official

VIJAYAWADA

Officials from the Anti-Corruption Bureau Andhra Pradesh on Friday resumed interrogation of Kalingiri Shanti, a suspended Assistant Commissioner, after securing her police custody for two days. She was brought from Vijayawada district jail to the Vijayawada Government General Hospital for a mandatory medical examination before questioning began.

This marks the second round of custodial interrogation after a court previously allowed investigators to question her earlier in April. The agency approached the court again, alleging that Shanti had not cooperated during the initial phase of the probe, prompting fresh custody approval.

Shanti was arrested on April 7 following extensive raids at multiple locations linked to her. She is currently lodged in jail, with her judicial custody extended beyond the initial period. During court proceedings, she also filed a petition seeking permission to meet her young child, with the matter taken up for consideration separately.

According to investigators, searches conducted over nearly 10 hours in areas such as Tadepalli, Undavalli, and Visakhapatnam revealed assets significantly exceeding her known sources of income. The ACB reported that it uncovered properties and valuables worth approximately Rs 1.37 crore.

Among the assets seized were a residential flat in Visakhapatnam, a multi-storey building in Kunchanapalli, substantial quantities of gold and silver ornaments, cash, bank deposits, and vehicles. Officials also collected documents and electronic evidence believed to be linked to the case.

Following the raids, a case was registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act, and Shanti was remanded to judicial custody. Authorities maintain that further questioning is essential to trace the full extent of the alleged financial irregularities and identify any additional links.

The case continues to draw attention as investigators deepen their probe into alleged corruption within the department, with further developments expected after the current round of questioning.

ECI suspends police officer for 'negligence' in duty

Kolkata

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has suspended Hingalganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sandeep Sarkar in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, said officials on Friday. The order issued on Thursday night sought his immediate removal from duty. However, the reason for this suspension was not clear in the instructions. According to the Commission officials, this order pertains to negligence in duty. State Chief Secretary Dushyant Nariala has been asked to take action as per the Commission's instructions. The Commission has ordered that the responsibility be immediately given to someone else in his place.

Being boatman for PM's ride was a great experience: Gouranga Biswas

KOLKATA

For Gouranga Biswas, a local boatman, Friday morning turned into an unforgettable experience as he ferried Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a brief boat ride. Biswas described the moment as fascinating and unlike anything he had experienced before, as he rowed the boat carrying Narendra Modi. The interaction, though brief, left a lasting impression on the boatman, who said he felt both excited and honored to be part of the Prime Minister's visit.

According to Biswas, the ride was smooth and calm, allowing him to focus on his task despite the high-profile passenger on board. He noted that the presence of security personnel and officials did not distract him from rowing, although the significance of the moment was not lost on him.

Local residents gathered along the banks to catch a glimpse of the Prime Minister, adding to the atmosphere surrounding the visit. For Biswas, who has spent years navigating the waters as part of his daily livelihood, the ride stood out as a rare and proud occasion.

He shared that opportunities like this are once in a lifetime for people in his profession. The experience, he said, will remain a cherished memory, one he would recount to family and friends for years to come.

The Prime Minister's visit, which included the boat ride, drew attention from locals and officials alike, highlighting both the region's cultural significance and the personal stories of individuals like Biswas, whose lives briefly intersect with national events.

'RTC driver's self-immolation is murder by Revanth Reddy govt'

HYDERABAD

Opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and BJP in Telangana have termed the suicide of a Road Transport Corporation driver as a murder by the state government. They blamed the government for the ongoing strike by the RTC employees over long-pending demands.

Shankar Goud, a driver of RTC, set himself ablaze in Warangal district on Thursday during the protest by striking employees. He succumbed while undergoing treatment at Apollo DRDO Hospital in Hyderabad early Friday morning.

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao said that it was not a suicide but a murder committed by the Revanth Reddy government.

Shankar Goud took the extreme step of ending his life solely because he could no longer bear the grave injustice that CM Revanth Reddy has been inflicting upon RTC workers for the past two and a half years, KTR said in a post on 'X'.

He termed as 'utterly heinous act' the denial of permission by authorities to take Shankar Goud's mortal remains to the RTC depot at Narsampet to pay him homage. The minister said Shankar Goud sacrificed his life for the preservation of the RTC and the realisation of his fellow workers' rights. He condemned the arrest of former BRS MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy and others for standing in solidarity with Shankar Goud's family and demanded the unconditional release of all individuals who have been illegally arrested across the state.

KTR demanded that the government pay a compensation of Rs one crore to Shankar Goud's family.

Delhi HC closes plea after police assure protection to victim's family

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has disposed of a petition filed by the family of a youth killed during Holi-related violence in Uttam Nagar, after noting police assurances of continuous protection. A Bench led by Justice Girish Kathpalia recorded submissions that the local police are closely monitoring the situation and have taken extensive steps to safeguard the family and witnesses.

Authorities informed the court that security has been intensified around the residence, with CCTV surveillance, police pickets in nearby blocks, and a dedicated team stationed outside the house. The court also directed the SHO to share his personal contact number with the petitioners for immediate assistance.

Regarding objectionable social media content, police said over 250 posts had been removed. The court instructed prompt action on any further flagged content, while investigations into alleged threats continue under an ACP-level officer.

POSTAL VOTING DISPUTE

Kerala H Seeks ECI Clarification on Postal Voting Access

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has directed the Election Commission of India to clarify whether additional arrangements can be made for voters who missed casting their postal ballots, raising concerns about electoral fairness and accessibility.

In a significant development, the Kerala High Court on Friday asked the Election Commission of India to present its position on enabling additional facilities for voters who were unable to use postal ballots in the recently concluded polls. The court scheduled the next hearing for Tuesday, instructing the poll body to submit a detailed response.

The directive comes amid concerns that certain voters, particularly those eligible for postal voting, may have been effectively disenfranchised due to logistical challenges. Postal ballots are a crucial mechanism that allows specific categories of voters, including election duty staff, to exercise their franchise when they cannot vote in person.

The court's intervention follows a petition filed by a state government employee who claimed that his constitutional right to vote was denied despite completing all required procedures for postal voting. The case has drawn broader attention to potential gaps in the system, especially in the context of large-scale elections.

Polling for the state assembly was conducted on April 9, with counting scheduled for May 4. Observers note that postal ballots can be decisive in tightly contested constituencies, making the issue particularly significant. Earlier, the Election Commission had assured the court that all necessary measures would be taken to ensure that polling personnel could cast their votes before reporting for election duties. This assurance came in response to a petition filed by the Kerala NGO Union, which highlighted widespread difficulties faced by government staff deployed during elections.

The union pointed out that under the Conduct of Election Rules 1961, such personnel are entitled to vote through postal ballots. However, delays in distributing ballot papers reportedly prevented many from exercising this right.

The situation was further complicated by a limited voting window between April 1 and April 8, which overlapped with tight duty schedules for election staff. As a result, many eligible voters were unable to cast their ballots in time. With the court now seeking clarity from the Election Commission, the outcome of the case could have wider implications for electoral procedures and the protection of voting rights in future elections.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shivamogga
Ph: 08182-222943 **Email ID:** spdivision@gmail.com
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
No. EE/PWD, Special Division, Shimoga IFT No. 07/2026-27 Dtd. 22-04-2026
1. The Executive Engineer Public works Department Special Division, Shimoga invites **Expression of interest for Selection of Consultant for providing Transaction Advisory Services for Development of Land Parcels (3 Properties) in Shivamogga, Davanagere and Puttur on PPP Mode PWD/2025-26/SE0329/CALL-3** from eligible bidders through KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in)
2. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka from **Date: 22.04.2026 to 21.05.2026**
3. Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal on **or before 17.30 hours on 21-05-2026** The opening of the tenders will be as per the KPP Portal guidelines.
4. Pre-bid meeting for the above will be held on **18.05.2026 at 11.30 am** at the O/o the Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shivamogga.
5. The bidders who rejected in the tender, As per KTTP act they should go apeal in the KPP portal only. Written apeals are not accepted.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Special Division, Shivamogga
DIPR/SMG/No.115-04/Zenkar/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Olo Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor,
Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple), Bengaluru 560070.
Phone No: 080-26716046 Website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/JE-1/03/2026-27 Dated: 23.04.2026
KPPP Tender Notice (Two Cover System)
SHORT TERM SERVICE TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For **Service tender for Housekeeping** details can obtained from the KPPP Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before Dated: **30.04.2026** upto 4.00 pm. Further details can be obtained from web site at **http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Urban Dist, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/345/SSC/2026-27

Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Niyamitha
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kabini Reservoir Division, Kabini Colony, H.D Kote Taluk, Mysore District-571116(/ Fax: 08228-268378
E-mail: xekrdhdk@yahoo.com
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO:02/2026-27, Dt: 21-04-2026.
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Item rates tenders are invited on KPPP basis on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from eligible registered contractors for a total number of 04 works **(2 Regular & 2 DRIP-II Works)** with a minimum value of Rs.21.03 Lakh and maximum value of Rs.351.17 Lakhs. The contractors can have access/ download KPPP tender document from **21-04-2026** onwards and last date to submitt the filled tender document is **05-05-2026** till 5.00 PM. Technical bid will be opened on **06-05-2026** at 5.00 PM onwards and Financial bid will be opened after approval of the Technical Bid. All the information is available on KPPP web-site address **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp.** Additional information can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DDMYS/090/KSMCA/080/2026-27

Vijay hails 85% voter turnout in Tamil Nadu polls

Actor-turned-politician Vijay, chief of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, on Friday expressed gratitude to the people of Tamil Nadu for the record-breaking 85 per cent voter turnout in the recently concluded Assembly elections

CHENNAI

In a statement shared on the social media platform X, Vijay said the massive turnout had shattered long-standing perceptions that politics is driven only by powerful or highly experienced individuals. He credited ordinary citizens for redefining the political landscape through their active participation. He described the unprecedented participation as a defining moment in the state's democratic history.

The 2026 Assembly elections, conducted in a single phase across all 234 constituencies, recorded the highest voter turnout in Tamil Nadu since Independence. According to Vijay, the surge in participation was largely driven by youth and women voters, who turned out in large numbers across the state.

Calling the turnout unprecedented, Vijay remarked that Tamil Nadu had never witnessed such high participation before. He described April 23, 2026, as a historic day that demonstrated why elections are often referred to as a festival of democracy. He noted that families, including children, visited polling booths with enthusiasm comparable to festive gatherings, reflecting the vibrancy of the democratic process.

The TVK leader also extended special appreciation to first-time voters and individuals who travelled from other states and even abroad to cast their votes. He emphasized that the commitment shown by citizens highlights the strength of democratic values and deserves widespread recognition.

Vijay further acknowledged the efforts of his party's grassroots workers, including booth agents and administrators, who faced criticism during the campaign. He stated that the overwhelming voter response served as a fitting answer to those who had questioned the political awareness and capability of his party cadre.

Looking ahead, Vijay expressed confidence in his party's prospects as it faces a triangular contest against the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-led alliance and the Opposition All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-aligned National Democratic Alliance.

He concluded his statement on an optimistic note, expressing hope for a positive outcome and asserting that victory was within reach.

Choudhary backs NDA leadership, defends prohibition in Bihar Assembly

PATNA

His remarks underscored the ruling alliance's focus on stability, continuity, and social reform amid sharp criticism from the opposition. Addressing the Assembly, Vijay Kumar Choudhary highlighted the political developments following the 2020 Bihar elections, noting that the Bharatiya Janata Party, despite emerging as the numerically stronger party, chose to support Nitish Kumar as Chief Minister. He described this move as a reflection of the maturity and unity within the National Democratic Alliance, emphasizing that the alliance has consistently prioritized collective leadership over individual ambitions.

Choudhary stated that the current support for Samrat Choudhary's leadership follows the same principle, ensuring continuity and stability in governance. He added that the people of Bihar have placed their trust in the NDA for nearly two decades, and the emergence of a new generation of leaders marks a natural progression in the state's political landscape.

During a heated confidence vote debate in the Bihar Legislative Assembly, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary strongly defended the leadership of Samrat Choudhary and reiterated the government's firm commitment to the state's liquor prohibition policy

A significant portion of his speech focused on Bihar's liquor prohibition policy, introduced during Nitish Kumar's tenure. Choudhary made it clear that the law is non-negotiable and will neither be repealed nor diluted. Instead, he asserted that enforcement would be strengthened further to ensure its effectiveness.

Defending the policy against opposition criticism, he argued that ongoing arrests and penalties against violators demonstrate that the law is functioning as intended. He described prohibition not merely as a legal framework but as a broader social reform initiative aimed at improving societal behavior and reducing the harmful effects of alcohol consumption.

The Deputy Chief Minister also took aim at Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav, questioning his current stance on the prohibition law. Choudhary pointed out that Tejashwi Yadav had served as Deputy Chief Minister when the policy was implemented, suggesting that his present criticism reflects inconsistency in the opposition's position.

Despite the government's strong defence, the prohibition law continues to remain a contentious issue in Bihar politics, highlighting a key divide between the ruling alliance and the opposition.

QUICK READ

Jolt for Jharkhand govt as SC refuses to stay CBI probe

New Delhi

In a setback to the Jharkhand government, the Supreme Court on Friday refused to stay the Jharkhand High Court's order transferring the probe into an FIR against Enforcement Directorate officials in Ranchi to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). A bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and N. Kotiswar Singh dismissed the state government's plea, which had challenged the High Court's decision and sought a halt to the CBI investigation. Senior advocate Meenakshi Arora, appearing for the state, argued for a stay on the probe, but the apex court declined to grant any relief.

Assam Minister welcomes Gauhati HC rejection of Pawan Khera's bail plea

Guwahati

Assam Minister Pijush Hazarika on Friday welcomed the rejection of anticipatory bail to Congress leader Pawan Khera by the Gauhati High Court, and raised a series of questions over the alleged offences linked to the case. In a strongly worded post on X, Hazarika termed the development significant and alleged that Khera was involved in serious irregularities, including forging land-related documents and misrepresenting facts in a manner that could influence electoral outcomes. The Minister further questioned whether Khera was acting alone or as part of a larger network.

Women gift books, portraits as they await PM Modi at WB rally

Baruipur

Women in large numbers, among other locals, waited to catch a glimpse of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a public rally in Jadavpur, ahead of the second phase of Assembly elections in West Bengal. One of them carried a book that she wrote on the Prime Minister while a young girl wished to gift PM Modi a self-made sketch. Mahua Upadhyay, who wrote a book on PM Modi, told IANS, This is a book written on him. The amendments that he (PM Modi) made, the good things that he did, and the things that we expect from him. All of this is written in this book.

Amid growing concern over the devastating Mundathikode fireworks tragedy linked to the famed Thrissur Pooram, Kerala Devaswoms Minister V. N. Vasavan on Friday announced a detailed investigation into the incident, including whether excessive explosive materials were stored at the site

Probe Ordered into Mundathikode Fireworks Tragedy as Death Toll Rises to 14

THRISSUR

Recovery operations are ongoing, with authorities continuing to find human remains in areas far beyond the blast location. The minister stated that the government will hold comprehensive discussions to prevent such tragedies in the future, including reconsidering the nature of fireworks displays. Emphasizing safety and global standards, Vasavan suggested that fireworks should focus more on visual appeal rather than loud noise, drawing comparisons with international events such as the Olympics. In light of the tragedy, this year's Thrissur Pooram fireworks display has already been cancelled.

Providing an update on casualties, officials confirmed that 14 people have lost their lives in the incident. Initially, 10 victims were identified, with one additional confirmation later. However, the recovery of 29 sets of human remains has complicated the identification process, prompting the use of DNA testing. Four individuals are still reported missing, while four injured persons remain in critical condition. Those with minor injuries have since been discharged.

Authorities revealed that a total of 38 people were present at the site during the explosion, although official records verifying the exact number were destroyed in the blast. The intensity of the explosion is evident from the widespread dispersal of body parts, with search teams discovering remains in distant locations. Portions of a head were found approximately 400 metres away, while parts of a hand were recovered nearly a kilometre from the site.

Officials suspect that stray animals may have contributed to the scattering of remains. Additional fragments have been located in nearby agricultural fields, and search operations are continuing with the assistance of trained cadaver dogs. Police teams, along with local residents, are combing nearby residential areas to ensure no remains are left undiscovered.

To speed up identification, a mobile DNA testing unit has been deployed at Thrissur Medical College, where samples from all recovered remains have been sent for analysis. Authorities expect initial DNA results to arrive soon, which will be crucial in confirming the identities of victims and understanding the full scale of the tragedy.

V-P Radhakrishnan to Attend 35th Convocation of Rajasthan University Today

JAIPUR

Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan will visit Jaipur on Saturday to attend the 35th Convocation of the University of Rajasthan and other events, an official said on Friday.

Apart from attending the Convocation, the Vice-President will also attend the 23rd Cancer Survivors' Day, organised by Bhagwan Mahaveer Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Jaipur, said the official in a statement.

Earlier on Thursday, Vice-President Radhakrishnan chaired the sixth convocation ceremony of AIIMS Rishikesh in Uttarakhand and reminded them that convocation marks not only the culmination of years of disciplined effort and sacrifice but also the beginning of a greater responsibility towards society and the nation.

He urged the graduates to embrace their professional duties with dedication and a sense of purpose.

The Vice-President emphasised that healthcare is a public trust and that medical professionals play a vital role in nation-building. He urged the young graduates to contribute through preventive care, rural outreach, research, and innovation, and to remain guided by the values of empathy, integrity, and service.

Highlighting the spiritual and cultural significance of Rishikesh as a global centre of reflection and healing, and a gateway to the Himalayas, Vice-President Radhakrishnan noted that such a setting adds deeper meaning to the solemnity of the convocation ceremony.

Reflecting on the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Vice-President added that India demonstrated resilience, innovation, and commitment under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He highlighted India's large-scale vaccination drive, noting that more than 140 crore citizens received free vaccines, ensuring equitable access to healthcare, especially in underserved regions.

He emphasised that Indian scientists developed vaccines not for profit, but for the welfare of humanity.

The Vice-President also underlined India's global responsibility through its 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative, under which vaccines were supplied to more than 100 countries.

He said this initiative reflected the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The World is One Family) and reinforced India's role as a compassionate and responsible global partner.

SC Orders Reinstatement of Gujarat Judicial Officer with Full Benefits

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has directed the reinstatement of a Gujarat judicial officer with all consequential benefits, after setting aside a disciplinary action that sought to subject her to a de novo inquiry.

A bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe held that the order initiating a fresh inquiry against Chandni Prateek Sharma was contrary to the governing service rules, and consequently quashed the Gujarat High Court's judgment, which had upheld the action.

The respondents are directed to reinstate the appellant and to grant her all consequential benefits, the apex court ordered while allowing the appeal.

Sharma, who joined the Gujarat State Judicial Service in 2012 and was promoted to Senior Civil Judge in 2018, had been placed under suspension in February 2020 following complaints alleging misconduct, including habitual absenteeism and procedural irregularities. An inquiry officer, after examining 21 witnesses, had found only one charge proved while exonerating her of the remaining allegations.

However, the disciplinary authority disagreed with the findings and ordered a de novo inquiry after issuing a show cause notice.

The Gujarat High Court, in its September 26, 2024 judgment, had upheld the decision, observing that the disciplinary authority had recorded reasons for ordering a fresh inquiry.

Setting aside this view, the Supreme Court clarified that Rule 10 of the Gujarat Civil Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1971 permits only a further inquiry and not a fresh or de novo inquiry.

The expression 'further inquiry'… does not mean a fresh or a de novo inquiry but only a further inquiry, the Justice Narasimha-led Bench observed.

Holding that the initiation of a de novo inquiry was legally unsustainable, the top court said the Gujarat High Court failed to appreciate the settled legal position on the issue.

Security Guard Killed During Temple Robbery Bid in Ranchi; BJP Slams J'khand Govt

RANCHI

Unidentified criminals ransacked a prominent temple in Ranchi with an attempt to commit robbery, but the watchful security guard foiled their plans at the cost of his life, a senior police official said on Friday.

The 55-year-old security guard was bludgeoned to death after being attacked by the unknown miscreants. The incident happened at Jagannathpur Temple on Thursday night, when the criminals sneaked into the temple with an intent to plunder the temple's wealth.

The police have launched a serious investigation into the entire matter. Ranchi Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rakesh Ranjan told the media that initial investigations found that the miscreants entered the temple through an unlocked gate.

The miscreants stole cash from temple's donation box after attacking the security guard.

The incident is being investigated over both purposes of robbery and murder.

The shocking incident of robbery at the city's prestigious temple has raised fresh alarm over the law and order situation, besides bringing focus back on the security gaps in police administration.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has questioned the state government over 'temple robbery' in an upscale locality, while holding it accountable for rising crime incidents.

BJP spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo termed the incident as deeply tragic and said that the occurrence of such an incident in such a sensitive area is a matter of grave concern.

Pointing out that the State Assembly is situated less than a kilometre away from the temple, making the vicinity a high-security zone, Shahdeo remarked that if a murder can take place even within a high-security zone and the police fail to catch the culprits, the situation is alarming and appalling.

He appealed to the state government to take measures to prevent Jharkhand from becoming a hotbed of crime.

The deceased temple security guard has been identified as Birsa Munda.

PANCHAYATI RAJ LEGACY

Congress highlights Panchayati Raj legacy

NEW DELHI

The Congress party on Friday commemorated National Panchayati Raj Day by revisiting key legislative milestones that strengthened grassroots democracy in India. Senior party leader and Member of Parliament Jairam Ramesh credited former Prime Ministers Rajiv Gandhi and Manmohan Singh for their pivotal contributions in empowering village-level governance through constitutional and policy reforms.

Speaking on the occasion, Jairam Ramesh emphasized the historic importance of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, which came into effect in 1993. He attributed the landmark reform entirely to the vision and determination of Rajiv Gandhi, noting that the amendment fundamentally transformed local self-governance in rural India. According to Ramesh, it was Gandhi's persistence that ensured the inclusion of a provision reserving one-third of seats in Panchayati Raj institutions for women, including those from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities.

He pointed out that this move has had a lasting impact, with nearly 32 lakh elected representatives currently serving in Panchayati Raj institutions across the country, of whom around 15 lakh are women. Ramesh also recalled that the original version of the amendment had been introduced in 1989 but failed to pass in the Rajya Sabha due to opposition from the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Highlighting further developments, Ramesh praised the tenure of Manmohan Singh

for institutionalizing and strengthening the Panchayati Raj framework. He noted that the Ministry of Panchayati Raj was established in May 2004 under Singh's leadership, marking a significant step toward decentralization. Additionally, he cited the launch of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2006 as a transformative policy that placed village councils at the center of planning and implementation of rural employment schemes.

Ramesh explained that the 73rd Amendment introduced a comprehensive set of provisions under Articles 243-A to 243-O of the Constitution, granting extensive powers to local governing bodies. These provisions laid the foundation for a robust system of grassroots democracy.

Providing current figures, he stated that India now has approximately 2.6 lakh gram panchayats, over 6,700 intermediate panchayats, and 673 district-level bodies. In a subtle political remark, Ramesh stressed that strengthening local governance institutions remains more urgent than merely expanding the size of the national legislature, underscoring the enduring relevance of Panchayati Raj in India's democratic framework.

QUICK READ

No US-Iran peace talks in sight

ISLAMABAD

For nearly a week, Pakistan's capital has been waiting for peace talks between the U.S. and Iran to take place there, and although there is no sign the two sides will meet, large parts of the city remain sealed off by authorities. Key roads leading into Islamabad are shut down and a strict security cordon envelops the administrative centre, the so-called Red Zone. In the adjacent Blue Area, cafes have run out of fruit, markets are deserted and with no service at bus terminals, weekend commuters are struggling to get home. Government officials say the measures are not ending any time soon.

Trump, aides chase vote-rigging claims

WASHINGTON

Late last summer, Kurt Olsen's patience had run out. U.S. President Donald Trump had enlisted Olsen months earlier to seek evidence of foreign interference in U.S. elections and re-investigate Trump's 2020 loss. A prominent election-denier, attorney and former Navy SEAL, Olsen aimed to prove the discredited conspiracy theory that Dominion Voting Systems machines had been infected with malicious code controlled by Venezuela, according to three sources familiar with the matter. But a secret federal investigation of Puerto Rico's Dominion machines had found no trace of hacking after the administration seized the machines in May and directed a cybersecurity contractor to scour them for months.

War, drought, aid shortfall to fuel hunger in 2026: Report

ROME

Conflict, drought and shrinking aid will keep global hunger at critical levels in 2026, with food insecurity expected to worsen in some of the world's most fragile countries, according to the 2026 Global Report on Food Crises. The 10th edition of the hunger monitor, published by a coalition of development and humanitarian organisations, said that acute hunger had doubled over the past decade with two famines declared last year for the first time in the report's history - in Gaza and Sudan. In total, 266 million people in 47 countries and territories faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2025, while 1.4 million people faced ₹catastrophic conditions in parts of Haiti, Mali, Gaza, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen.

Pentagon Weighs Measures Against NATO Allies Over Iran War Support

An internal Pentagon communication has revealed that the United States is considering a range of policy options to respond to NATO allies it believes did not adequately support its operations

WASHINGTON

According to a U.S. official familiar with the matter, the internal email outlines potential steps to punish certain members of the NATO for what Washington perceives as insufficient cooperation during the war. Among the measures discussed are suspending Spain from key alliance roles and reassessing the U.S. stance on Britain's claim over the Falkland Islands.

The document reportedly reflects frustration within the Pentagon over some allies' reluctance or refusal to provide access, basing, and overflight rights, commonly referred to as ABO. These permissions are considered critical for conducting military operations, particularly in regions of strategic importance. The official noted that the email described ABO as the absolute baseline expectation within NATO, emphasizing that the issue has been discussed at senior levels within the U.S. defense establishment.One of the more striking options proposed involves sidelining difficult member countries by excluding them from prestigious or influential NATO positions. However, the feasibility of more severe measures remains uncertain. A NATO official clarified that the alliance's founding treaty does not include any provision for suspending member states, raising questions about how such actions could be implemented.The developments come amid heightened tensions following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital global shipping route disrupted after the outbreak of hostilities on February 28. The United States has urged its allies to contribute naval support to secure the passage, but participation has reportedly been limited.Donald Trump has openly criticized NATO partners for what he views as a lack of commitment, even suggesting that Washington could reconsider its membership in the alliance. In a recent interview, he questioned the value of continued U.S. participation, signaling growing dissatisfaction within his administration.

Despite the strong rhetoric, the Pentagon email does not recommend withdrawing from NATO or closing U.S. military bases in Europe. Instead, it presents a range of strategic options aimed at pressuring allies to align more closely with U.S. military objectives. As discussions continue, the situation underscores evolving strains within the alliance during a period of global instability.

Drone Strike Revives Safety Concerns at Chornobyl Nuclear Site

CHORNOBLY

Denys Khomenko, a senior technical official at the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant, recalls the tense moment when a Russian strike drone pierced the protective structure shielding the damaged reactor. Despite the severity of the incident, Khomenko remained composed, emphasizing that calm decision-making is essential in managing such a high-risk environment.

The facility, located about 100 kilometers north of Kyiv, continues to operate under strict safety protocols as it undergoes gradual decommissioning nearly four decades after the catastrophic Chernobyl disaster. The strike narrowly avoided a larger crisis, but it left a visible breach in the massive steel structure encasing reactor four.

Workers have temporarily sealed the hole using a large panel, though the scale of the protective arch—spanning 256 meters—makes repairs complex and time-consuming. The surrounding exclusion zone, while partially stabilized with near-normal radiation levels in some areas, still contains highly contaminated sections, particularly around the destroyed reactor core.

Khomenko explained that repair efforts are severely constrained by radiation exposure limits. Skilled workers such as welders can only operate for short periods—sometimes just minutes—necessitating a larger workforce that is currently difficult to assemble. This challenge underscores the ongoing vulnerability of the site amid continued military activity in Ukraine.

The situation is further complicated by the broader conflict, which has seen repeated air strikes on infrastructure across the country. The Chornobyl site itself was briefly occupied by Russian forces during the early stages of the 2022 invasion, delaying long-term dismantling plans for the damaged reactor.

The February 2025 drone strike triggered a fire that burned for weeks, damaging the outer membrane of the containment structure originally built to secure radioactive debris. Experts warn that the protective system, constructed in 2016 at a cost of approximately 2 billion euros and designed to last a century, now requires urgent repairs to prevent long-term deterioration.

As Ukraine prepares to mark the 40th anniversary of the disaster on April 26, the renewed threat highlights the enduring dangers posed by the site. With wildlife reclaiming nearby abandoned areas such as the ghost town of Pripyat, the contrast between natural recovery and persistent nuclear risk remains stark.

PUTIN RETURNS 'IRON FELIX' DZERZHINSKY TO RUSSIA'S SPY SCHOOL

MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin has ordered Russia's Federal Security Service's spy academy to carry the name of Iron Felix Dzerzhinsky, the founder of the Soviet secret police and architect of the Red Terror which followed the 1917 revolution.Dzerzhinsky, a Polish noble-turned-revolutionary who helped lay the foundations of the repressive system over which Josef Stalin was to preside, is reviled by dissidents but is a hero to the spies who rule in Putin's Russia.

After the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall, a cheering crowd toppled a statue of him in the Polish capital Warsaw. As the Soviet Union itself crumbled in 1991, a monument to Dzerzhinsky outside the KGB headquarters on Lubyanka Square in Moscow was felled by jubilant demonstrators.

But Iron Felix is back at the FSB spy school less than two years after making a comeback to the Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR).

In a decree published by the Kremlin this week, Putin ordered the FSB's Academy, which used to be known as the KGB's Higher School, to be known henceforth as the F.E. Dzerzhinsky Academy of the Federal Security Service.

Putin, himself a former KGB lieutenant colonel, said the decision had been taken because of Dzerzhinsky's outstanding contribution to ensuring state security, according to the decree.The KGB's Higher School was formally known as the F.E. Dzerzhinsky Higher School of the KGB from 1962-1993, according to Russian media. Putin was a student there in 1979 and the early 1980s, according to an official biography.The FSB academy in southern Moscow has faculties including foreign languages, information security, counterintelligence, operational support, applied mathematics, and special equipment. For some Russians, the return of Dzerzhinsky is an indicator of the repression they say prevails in wartime Russia - and the extent to which the country has abandoned its post-Soviet pivot towards the West.As one of Vladimir Lenin's most loyal lieutenants, Dzerzhinsky helped establish the revolutionary government using ruthless Leninist tactics: the brutal persecution of opponents - or anyone even suspected of being an opponent.

Dozens of Thai opposition figures to go on trial over bid to amend royal insult law

BANGKOK

Thailand's Supreme Court said on Friday that 44 current and former opposition lawmakers will go on trial over an attempt to amend a law that protects the monarchy from criticism, in another blow to the country's progressive movement.The 44 facing trial from June 30 for alleged ethics violations include serving and former lawmakers of the People's Party and its disbanded predecessor Move Forward, who each face the maximum penalty of a lifetime ban from office if found guilty.Hundreds of people have been prosecuted in recent years under Thailand's lese-majeste law, which is among the strictest of its kind in the world, with punishments of up to 15 years in prison for offenders.On the back of massive anti-government, youth-led street protests that included calls for the reform of the monarchy, Move Forward tried to amend the law in parliament in 2021, arguing it had been misused to stifle political opponents.

Thailand's constitution enshrines the king in a position of revered worship and royalists regard the palace as sacrosanct.The liberal agenda of the People's Party and its forerunners created powerful enemies among Thailand's conservative establishment, with the movement on the wrong end of a multiple court rulings, including two party dissolutions.The 44 include People's Party leader Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut, four deputy leaders and former Move Forward leader Pita Limjaroenrat, who is currently serving a 10-year ban from politics.We will pursue our legal fight in the Supreme Court to the fullest extent, in order to defend the legitimacy of the representative mandate in a parliamentary democracy, People's Party leader Natthaphong told a press conference on Friday.

The progressive movement's hugely popularity among young and urban Thais swept Move Forward to victory in the 2023 general election, but it was blocked from forming a government by lawmakers allied with the royalist military.

A court in 2024 ruled that Move Forward's attempt to reform the royal insult law was unconstitutional and undermined the democratic system.

Northern Japan wildfires prompt mass evacuations as flames spread

TOKYO

Two rapidly spreading forest fires in northern Japan have forced authorities to expand evacuation orders, with more than 3,000 residents urged to leave their homes as firefighters struggle to contain the blazes.The fires, which erupted on afternoon in Iwate Prefecture, continue to move toward nearby residential areas, raising concerns over public safety and property damage. The first blaze began in a mountainous region, where dry conditions and strong winds have contributed to its rapid spread. A second fire broke out roughly two hours later, about 10 kilometers away near Otsuchi, compounding the challenge for emergency responders.Local authorities have issued evacuation orders affecting more than 3,000 people as a precautionary measure. Residents in high-risk zones have been advised to leave immediately, while emergency shelters have been set up to accommodate those displaced. Officials warned that shifting wind patterns could further accelerate the fires, making containment efforts more difficult.Firefighting teams have been deployed across both locations, working continuously to control the flames. However, the rugged terrain and limited accessibility in mountainous areas have hindered operations. Helicopters and ground crews are being used in coordination, but progress has been slow as the fires remain uncontained.

Israel–Lebanon Ceasefire Extended Amid Rising Gulf Tensions

DUBAI

The agreement to prolong the ceasefire was reached during a meeting brokered by Donald Trump, who emphasized that he was willing to wait for what he described as the best deal to bring a lasting end to the ongoing conflict with Iran. The ceasefire extension comes amid continued hostilities between Israel and the Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah, which has been a major obstacle in resolving the wider regional crisis now entering its eighth week.

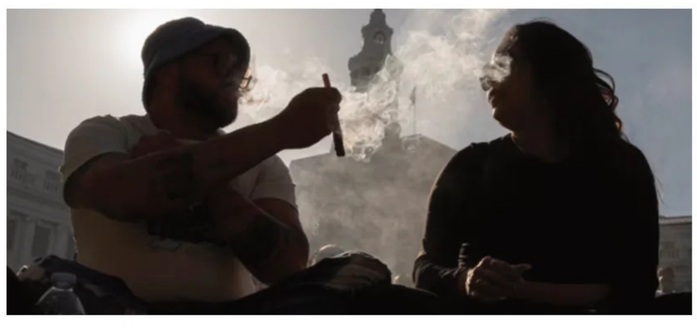
The conflict has also been complicated by Iran's nuclear ambitions and its strategic control over the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping corridor through which nearly 20 percent of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas supplies pass. Despite mounting pressure, Trump reiterated that the United States holds a strong position in the ongoing naval standoff and dismissed Iranian threats as exaggerated.

His remarks came shortly after Iran showcased its control over the strait, raising concerns about global energy supplies.

US MARIJUANA POLICY SHIFT

U.S. Eases Marijuana Restrictions in Drug Policy Shift

WASHINGTON



The United States has announced a significant shift in its drug policy, with federal authorities moving to relax restrictions on marijuana and reclassify it as a less dangerous substance, marking one of the most substantial changes in decades.

The U.S. Department of Justice confirmed that it will immediately begin loosening restrictions on certain marijuana products while accelerating efforts to reclassify the drug under federal law. The decision stops short of full legalization but is expected to have wide-ranging implications for the rapidly growing cannabis industry, currently valued at approximately $47 billion.

Under existing rules, marijuana has been categorized alongside highly addictive substances such as heroin. The proposed changes would shift state-regulated medical marijuana products into a less restrictive classification, similar to substances with low to moderate abuse potential, including some prescription painkillers and treatments like ketamine. Products approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will also fall under the new category.Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche stated that the federal government plans to fast-track broader reforms aimed at reclassifying all uses of cannabis. According to officials, the move is expected to reduce regulatory barriers, facilitate scientific research, and ease financial constraints for businesses operating in the sector.The policy shift follows a directive issued in December by Donald Trump, instructing the Justice Department to review and relax marijuana regulations. The administration argues that aligning federal policy with evolving medical research and state-level practices will improve patient care and provide doctors with more reliable data.

Expert David Williamson leads a high-intensity goalkeeping camp in Bengaluru to fortify the Indian Women's Hockey Team's defense.

Special goalkeeping camp sharpens Indian women's defense

BENGALURU

The Indian Women's Hockey Team has launched a high intensity goalkeeping camp at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in Bengaluru. Running from April 22 to May 2, the camp is led by renowned international expert David Williamson. This specialized training aims to fortify India's defense as the team prepares for a demanding international schedule, including the Nations Cup in June and the upcoming Asian Games.Under the guidance of Williamson and Chief Coach Sjoerd Marijne, star veteran Savita is training alongside promising keepers Bansari Solanki, Bichu Devi Kharibam, and Madhuri Kindo. Marijne noted that the unit is building on strong momentum from their recent tour of Argentina. By involving junior players in the senior camp, the coaching staff is ensuring a seamless transition for the next generation of Indian talent.The initiative is supported by the Coca Cola India Foundation, which has become a key partner in developing the sport at all levels. Savita expressed her excitement, stating that such professional backing gives younger athletes the confidence to pursue hockey as a career. The foundation also recently supported the 16th Sub Junior Women's National Championship, where Jharkhand emerged as champions.With the FIH Hockey Nations Cup in New Zealand just weeks away, the focus in Bengaluru is on razor sharp execution. Coach Marijne believes this concentrated training period is vital for the goalkeepers to reach peak form.

India's young ice hockey stars target glory

KYRGYZSTAN

The next generation of Indian winter athletes has arrived in Bishkek for the 2026 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Asia Cup. Set to run from April 27 to May 3, the tournament will see the young Indian squad battle against regional rivals including Mongolia, Uzbekistan, and hosts Kyrgyzstan. This trip represents a major step forward for the sport in India, which has seen a massive surge in popularity over the last year.

India's rising ice hockey stars compete at the 2026 U18 Asia Cup in Kyrgyzstan, fueled by recent historic achievements and a growing national league.

Led by captain Gurtej Singh Bhatti, the team features a strong core of players from Ladakh and Chandigarh, alongside talent from across the nation.

Their arrival comes at a time of historic momentum. Just last year, the Indian women's team captured the country's first ever international medal in the sport, a bronze at the 2025 Asia Cup. Following that success, the sport gained national fame, with the team even appearing on the popular show Kaun Banega Crorepati.

The growth of the game is also visible back home. The reopening of the Himadri Ice Rink in Dehradun and the successful launch of the India Ice Hockey League have provided players with better training and more competition. Harjinder Singh, General Secretary of the Ice Hockey Association of India, noted that having players from multiple states proves the game is expanding beyond its traditional mountain roots.

With local real estate developer SS Group backing the team, the U18 boys are ready to leave their mark.

As they hit the ice this week, they carry the hopes of a nation eager to prove that India can be a contender even in winter sports.

'India aims for global sporting glory soon'

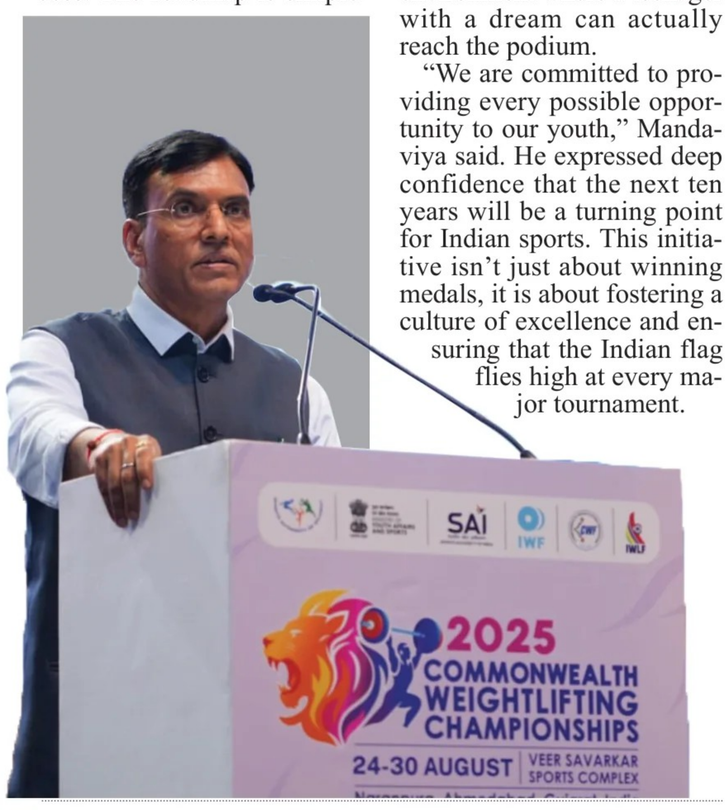
BUDGAM

India is lacing up its boots for a massive leap on the world stage. Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced a bold vision to transform the country into a global athletic powerhouse over the next two decades.

The Minister shared these ambitious goals while visiting Budgam in central Kashmir, where he inaugurated a new 30 bedded hospital. He stated that under the current government's leadership, the nation is building a clear path to success. The roadmap is simple but grand, India aims to be among the top ten sporting nations by 2036 and break into the elite top five by 2047, coinciding with the centenary of the country's independence.

Mandaviya highlighted that the secret to this shift lies in better governance and a more organized support system for athletes. By streamlining how sports are managed, the government is opening doors for young talent to showcase their skills on international platforms. The focus has shifted toward creating a structured environment where a teenager with a dream can actually reach the podium.

"We are committed to providing every possible opportunity to our youth," Mandaviya said. He expressed deep confidence that the next ten years will be a turning point for Indian sports. This initiative isn't just about winning medals, it is about fostering a culture of excellence and ensuring that the Indian flag flies high at every major tournament.



Golf star Justin Rose joins India field

NEW DELHI

The lush greens of the Delhi Golf Club are preparing for a historic showdown as major champion Justin Rose officially joins the star studded lineup for the upcoming DP World India Championship. In what marks his professional debut on Indian soil, the world number five will compete in the prestigious tournament scheduled from October 15 to 18.This announcement adds another layer of excitement to the $4,000,000 event, which is fast becoming one of the most anticipated stops on the golfing calendar. Fans in the capital will witness a rare gathering of legends. Rose will tee off alongside defending champion Tommy Fleetwood and the red hot Rory McIlroy, who recently secured back-to-back Masters titles. The presence of these three titans promises an unforgettable weekend of high stakes sportsmanship and precision.

Justin Rose has been a household name in global golf for over two decades. Since his first professional victory in 2002, he has built a resume that defines greatness. His career highlights include a thrilling U.S. Open victory in 2013 and a historic Olympic gold medal in Rio. Now, he brings that world class experience to New Delhi, eager to test his skills against a challenging course and a formidable field.

Local enthusiasts are buzzing with anticipation to see Rose's iconic swing in person. The tournament isn't just about the prize money, it is a celebration of the sport's growth in India. As these global icons gather, Delhi will truly become the center of the golfing world this October.

Sri Lanka cricket chief faces high-stakes meeting

COLOMBO

The future of Sri Lankan cricket hangs in the balance as President Anura Kumara Dissanayake prepares for a critical face-to-face meeting with the country's cricket chief, Shammi Silva. This high profile discussion comes at a time of intense speculation regarding a major shakeup within the nation's most beloved sport.

Insiders close to Silva confirmed that the meeting is set for later this evening, sparking a wave of curiosity across the cricketing community. For weeks, rumors have swirled through local media suggesting that the government is unhappy with the current state of cricket administration. There is growing talk that Silva could be asked to step down to make way for a fresh start.

The primary concern for fans and officials alike is the possibility of the government appointing an interim administration. Such a move would essentially hit the reset button on the board's leadership in hopes of streamlining the sport and improving national performance. While the government wants to ensure the game is managed with transparency and excellence, any political interference in sports often brings its own set of challenges.As the two leaders sit down to talk, the goal is clear - finding the best path forward for Sri Lankan cricket. For a nation that lives and breathes the sport, the outcome of this meeting is about more than just boardrooms and titles. It is about restoring pride to the jersey and ensuring that the next generation of cricketers has the solid leadership they deserve to thrive on the world stage.

Global rights groups warn world cup travelers

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Human rights advocates have issued an urgent travel advisory for international fans, players, and journalists planning to visit the United States for the 2026 World Cup. The warning comes as the country prepares for the world's largest sporting event amid a tense political climate and strict new border policies.A coalition of over 120 organizations, including the ACLU and the NAACP, signed the advisory. They warn that visitors could face "arbitrary detention" or "racial profiling" due to an aggressive immigration crackdown by the Trump administration. The groups expressed specific concern for travelers from immigrant communities, racial minorities, and the LGBTQ+ community, calling them the "most vulnerable to serious harm."The advisory suggests that international visitors carry an emergency plan and take precautions, such as securing electronic devices against invasive searches. Rights groups claim that despite the tournament being less than two months away, neither the U.S. government nor FIFA has provided sufficient guarantees for the safety and freedom of travelers. FIFA responded by stating it is "committed to respecting all recognized human rights" and has established a special advisory group to monitor the situation.The 2026 World Cup, hosted across the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, begins in June and features 104 matches. Eleven American cities are set to host games, with the final taking place at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. Advocates are now urging FIFA to use its significant leverage to pressure federal authorities for policy changes.

Golf star Justin Rose joins India field

NEW DELHI

Indian equestrian star Anush Agarwalla has galloped into the spotlight once again, delivering a spectacular performance on the global stage. Competing at the CDI Hagen in Germany, one of Europe's most prestigious international dressage events, Agarwalla secured a brilliant second-place finish. This silver-medal achievement marks another proud moment for Indian sports, proving that the nation's talent in the saddle is truly world-class.

Riding his skilled and elegant mare, Floriana, Agarwalla posted an impressive score of 70.94 percent. Dressage is often described as "horse ballet," requiring a perfect bond between the rider and the animal. The duo certainly lived up to that description, presenting a test that was both polished and expressive. Their seamless movements and undeniable chemistry clearly caught the eyes of the international judges, who rewarded their hard work with a spot on the podium.This success is more than just a single victory, it represents the rapid rise of a young athlete dedicated to his craft. For Agarwalla, every competition in Europe is a step toward making India a powerhouse in equestrian sports. His journey with Floriana continues to inspire fans back home, showing that with patience and precision, international dreams are well within reach.As the equestrian world takes notice of his talent, Agarwalla remains focused on climbing the ranks. This landmark achievement in Hagen is a testament to his discipline and the growing prestige of Indian riders abroad. For now, the silver medal shines brightly as a symbol of his bright future.

LORD'S HONORS SOUTH ASIAN STARS WITH EXHIBITION

LONDON

The historic walls of Lord's Cricket Ground are whispering new stories this week. A vibrant exhibition celebrating the deep connection between the South Asian community and British cricket has officially opened at the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Museum. Titled "The Many Worlds of British Asian Cricket," this showcase shines a long overdue spotlight on the players, families, and fans who have shaped the sport in the United Kingdom.Located in the museum's Community Gallery, the exhibition has become a central part of the famous Lord's tour. Visitors are greeted by a rich collection of memorabilia, including professional equipment and jerseys worn by South Asian athletes who climbed to the very peak of the game. It's a journey through time, showing how local club cricket transformed into international stardom.The display doesn't just focus on local heroes, it also honors global icons like Sachin Tendulkar. The "Master Blaster" famously spent time playing club and county cricket in England, a move that ignited a passion for the sport in thousands of young British Asians. By highlighting these legends, the museum shows how one person's talent can inspire an entire generation to pick up a bat or ball.This exhibition is a heartfelt tribute to the heritage and heartbeat of the game. It recognizes that cricket in Britain is more than just a match, it is a shared language that bridges cultures. For fans visiting the "Home of Cricket," it offers a chance to celebrate the diverse faces that make the sport so beloved.

Formula One returns to iconic Istanbul circuit

TURKEY

Formula One fans have a major reason to celebrate as the legendary Istanbul Park circuit officially returns to the global racing calendar. The Turkish presidency confirmed that a long-term agreement has been reached to host the Turkish Grand Prix for at least five years, starting in 2027. The news marks the end of a determined, years-long campaign by Turkey to bring the pinnacle of motorsport back to its shores.President Tayyip Erdogan is scheduled to announce the full details of the deal alongside F1 CEO Stefano Domenicali and FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem. While financial specifics are still being finalized, the return is seen as a massive victory for Turkish sports tourism.

QUICK READ

Pemmasani pushes telecom sector towards design innovation

NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Communications Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar has urged India's telecom industry to transition from a services-driven approach to design-led innovation, emphasizing greater investment in research and development. He stressed that owning core technologies and product design is essential for global competitiveness, especially with emerging 6G technologies. Highlighting institutions like the Centre for Development of Telematics, he called for stronger indigenous capabilities to reduce import dependence. Increased R&D spending, he noted, can boost exports, create intellectual property, and strengthen supply chain resilience. He also advocated deeper collaboration between industry, academia, and government to accelerate innovation in 5G and future telecom technologies. This will position India as a global leader.

Crude oil prices surge above $100 amid tensions

MUMBAI

International crude oil prices rose sharply, gaining up to 2% as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East intensified, despite a reported US ceasefire announcement. Brent crude climbed to around $107 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) rose to about $97.6. Weekly gains have been significant, with Brent up nearly 19% and WTI about 17%, driven largely by supply concerns. Market volatility has been fueled by disruptions near the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil transit route carrying roughly 20% of global oil trade. Analysts said prices remain cautiously bullish, with resistance near $99–$104.50 and potential upside toward $110, while $95 is seen as key support. Domestic Indian markets saw MCX crude dip slightly even as global prices surged.

India sees cash-digital surge, SBI flags paradox trend

NEW DELHI

India is witnessing a unique financial pattern where both cash usage and digital payments are growing simultaneously, a trend highlighted by State Bank of India (SBI) as a "cash paradox." SBI Research notes that while digital platforms like UPI are expanding rapidly for everyday transactions, cash circulation remains elevated due to informal payments, rural dependence, and precautionary holdings. Rather than replacing cash, digital payments are growing alongside it, creating a hybrid payment ecosystem. The report emphasizes that India's economy continues to balance traditional and modern payment systems. It also suggests strengthening digital infrastructure and financial inclusion to support future growth, including wider adoption of emerging technologies like CBDC across sectors.

Indian markets tumble as crude surges, IT drags indices

Indian markets fell sharply as crude oil surged above $107 and IT sector weakness dragged indices lower.

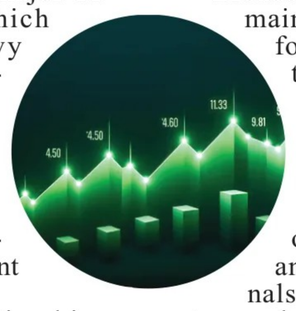
- Crude oil crosses 107 dollars
- IT sector stocks drag markets
- Sensex falls nearly 1000 points
- Nifty drops over one percent
- Foreign investors continue selling pressure

MUMBAI

Indian equity markets witnessed a sharp sell-off on Friday, with the BSE Sensex falling 982 points and the Nifty dropping 1.14% as investors reacted to rising global oil prices and weak IT sector performance.

The decline was driven primarily by Brent crude oil prices crossing the $107 per barrel mark, raising concerns over inflation, import costs, and widening fiscal pressures. Higher oil prices typically hurt India, which relies heavily on energy imports, and also weigh on corporate earnings expectations.

Sentiment was further dampened by disappointing quarterly results and cautious outlooks from major IT companies, which triggered heavy selling in technology stocks.



The IT sector has been under pressure due to slowing global demand and uncertainty in client spending.

Foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows also added to market weakness, as global risk aversion increased amid geopolitical tensions in West Asia and volatility in commodity markets.

Broader Asian cues remained weak, reinforcing the negative trend on Dalal Street. Analysts noted that markets are increasingly sensitive to crude oil movements and earnings signals, making short-term volatility likely.

Despite the sharp fall, some experts believe corrections could offer selective buying opportunities in fundamentally strong stocks, provided macro risks such as oil prices and global inflation remain contained.

Overall, the session reflected a risk-off environment, with energy shocks and earnings disappointment combining to push Indian equities lower.

India and US continue BTA talks focusing on market access, digital trade, investment flows, and economic cooperation.

India-US trade talks focus on market access, digital rules

NEW DELHI

India and the United States held fresh discussions in Washington under the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), focusing on market access, digital trade, and investment flows, according to official updates from the Indian side.

The talks are part of ongoing negotiations aimed at building a broader trade framework between India and United States. Both sides are working toward improving access for goods and services while addressing long-standing concerns around tariffs, regulatory barriers, and non-tariff restrictions.

A key area of discussion is market access, where India is seeking improved entry for its exports in the US market, while the US is pushing for

easier access in sectors such as agriculture, industrial goods, and technology services. The negotiations also include efforts to reduce technical barriers that restrict cross-border trade.

Digital trade has emerged as another major pillar of the talks. Both countries are exploring rules to govern data flows, e-commerce standards, and digital services, with an emphasis on creating predictable and secure frameworks for technology-driven trade.

Investment facilitation is also being discussed to encourage stronger capital flows between the two economies.

According to reports, the latest round of talks in Washington is seen as constructive, with both sides aiming to narrow differences ahead of a potential interim agreement.

Recent developments suggest momentum in the broader BTA process, with officials targeting enhanced economic cooperation and a long-term goal of significantly expanding bilateral trade.

The discussions come amid a wider push by both governments to deepen strategic economic ties, strengthen supply chains, and align on emerging areas such as technology standards and digital governance, which are expected to play a central role in future trade agreements.

Falling rupee seen as long-term buying opportunity

NEW DELHI

India's Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran has described the weakening rupee as a potential buying opportunity for long-term investors, calling the currency "fundamentally undervalued" despite near-term pressures.

Nageswaran said the current valuation offers an attractive entry point for those betting on India's long-term growth story.

His remarks come as the rupee continues to face sustained pressure from global economic headwinds.

The currency has been on a losing streak, recently slipping to 94.25 against the US dollar, weighed down by rising crude oil prices.

Brent crude has remained above $100 per barrel amid tensions in the Middle East, increasing import costs and fuelling inflation concerns.

BSE flags deepfake scam targeting investors again

MUMBAI

India's leading stock exchange BSE Limited has issued a fresh warning after a fourth deepfake video surfaced online, falsely showing its Managing Director and CEO Sundararaman Ramamurthy giving stock market tips and investment advice.

The exchange clarified that the video is completely fabricated and malicious, using advanced deepfake technology to mislead viewers with promises of guaranteed and unusually high returns. It also reportedly encourages users to invest in select stocks and join private groups on messaging platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram for "exclusive" tips.

BSE noted that this is the fourth such incident in just four months, pointing to a growing pattern of scammers exploiting the credibility of trusted financial institutions and their leadership. The exchange stressed that neither its CEO nor any official provides stock tips or runs advisory groups on social media or messaging apps.

Reiterating its advisory, BSE urged investors to avoid engaging with or sharing such content and to rely only on official communication channels and intermediaries registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India.

India releases ₹30 bn swap aid to Maldives

MALE

India has approved the first withdrawal of ₹30 billion under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework to support the Maldives' financial stability, according to the Indian High Commission in Male.

The facility is part of the broader currency swap arrangement between the Reserve Bank of India and the Maldivian government, signed during President Mohamed Muizzu's visit to India in October 2024. The framework is designed to provide short-term liquidity support to SAARC member countries during financial stress.

The latest withdrawal follows the earlier $400 million facility availed by the Maldives under the same framework, which matured recently. The Maldivian government confirmed that it has settled the previous obligation, underscoring its commitment to

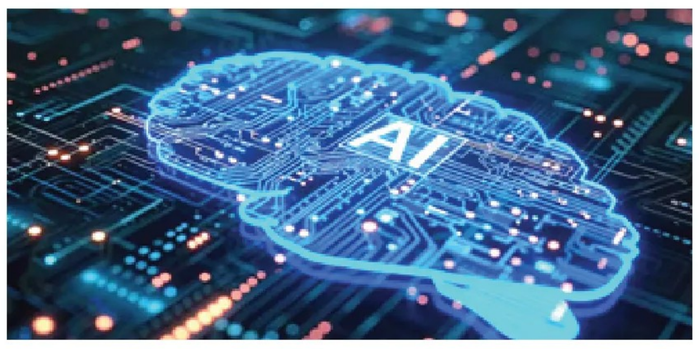
meeting external debt repayments.

India has provided substantial financial support to the Maldives over the years through multiple channels, including currency swaps and emergency credit lines. Since 2012, the RBI has extended over $1.1 billion in swap assistance to the island nation.

The High Commission noted that the swap arrangement has played a key role in maintaining macroeconomic and financial stability in the Maldives, particularly during periods of external pressure.

India also reiterated that the Maldives remains a key partner under its Neighbourhood First policy and Vision MAHASAGAR, highlighting New Delhi's role as a "first responder" in times of economic need.

The assistance comes as the Maldives continues to manage external financing pressures while balancing debt obligations and economic recovery efforts.



AI hiring surge spreads beyond India's metro cities

AI hiring in India jumps 59.5%, led by LinkedIn report, as demand spreads beyond metros, boosting opportunities in emerging cities and applied AI skills.

NEW DELHI

AI engineering hiring in India has surged 59.5% year-on-year, outpacing major global economies such as the United States, United Kingdom, France, and Germany, according to a new report by LinkedIn.

The report highlights that while traditional tech hubs like Bengaluru and Hyderabad continue to lead in AI hiring, demand is increasingly spreading to emerging cities such as Vijayawada. Hyderabad recorded a 51% rise in AI engineering roles, while Vijayawada saw a strong 45.5 % increase, reflecting a broader geographic shift.

This growth is being driven by rapid adoption of artificial intelligence across organisations of all sizes. Large enterprises still account for the highest share of AI hiring, backed by investments in infrastructure, governance, and large-scale deployment. However, small and medium-sized businesses are quickly catching up, playing a key role in moving AI from experimentation to practical implementation. Among the fastest-growing skills in demand are AI Agents, AI Productivity tools, and platforms like Azure AI Studio, signalling a shift toward applied, execution-focused capabilities. In sectors such as manufacturing, skills like AI prompting and agent-based systems are becoming increasingly important to enhance employability.

The supply of AI talent is also expanding alongside demand. In manufacturing alone, AI engineering talent has grown fourfold, reaching about 2% of the workforce by 2025, indicating deeper integration of AI into core industrial operations.

Malai Lakshmanan, Head of Engineering at LinkedIn India, noted that engineers should prioritise practical, hands-on AI skills and focus on integrating AI into everyday workflows. As adoption accelerates across industries, professionals who can translate AI from concept to execution are likely to benefit the most from the growing opportunities.

WA tensions accelerate Asia's renewable shift

NEW DELHI

Rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia and disruptions in oil supply could push Asian economies to accelerate their transition toward renewable energy, according to a report by Jefferies. The brokerage highlighted that the ongoing crisis, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, poses significant risks to energy security, especially for oil-import-dependent nations across Asia.

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical global energy artery, handling nearly 20 percent of the world's oil trade, with a majority of shipments destined for Asian countries. Any prolonged disruption in this route can severely constrain supply, drive up crude prices, and create volatility in energy markets.

Recent developments have already triggered sharp increases in oil prices and disrupted supply chains. Analysts note that such shocks expose the vulnerability of economies heavily reliant on fossil fuel imports, particularly countries like India, China, Japan, and South Korea.

Jefferies believes that sustained supply disruptions could act as a structural catalyst for policy shifts. Governments may increasingly prioritize energy diversification, domestic production, and investment in renewables such as solar, wind, and green hydrogen. The crisis underscores the urgency of reducing dependence on imported crude and enhancing energy resilience.

In addition, higher fossil fuel prices tend to improve the relative competitiveness of renewable energy sources, making clean energy investments more attractive. This could accelerate ongoing energy transition efforts across the region.

While the immediate impact of the crisis is inflationary and poses risks to growth, it may also fast-track long-term structural changes in energy consumption patterns.

AI BANKING DEFENCES

AI threats push banks to build stronger defences

PUNE

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has urged Indian banks to significantly strengthen their cybersecurity frameworks, warning that rapidly evolving artificial intelligence (AI) risks could outpace existing safeguards. Speaking after a high-level review with banking leaders and regulators, she stressed that traditional systems "may no longer be sufficient" to deal with emerging AI-driven threats.

The minister called for a more proactive and forward-looking approach, asking banks to adopt advanced, AI-enabled security systems and continuously upgrade their technological infrastructure. She emphasised the need to secure IT systems, protect customer data, and safeguard financial assets from increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks.

- Banks urged strengthen AI cybersecurity defences
- AI threats outpacing traditional safeguards
- Real-time threat intelligence sharing needed
- Advanced AI security systems adoption
- Geopolitical risks adding financial pressure

A key focus area is the creation of robust real-time threat intelligence-sharing mechanisms among banks, regulators, and agencies such as CERT-In. This would allow early identification of risks and faster dissemination of information across the financial ecosystem, helping institutions respond quickly to potential breaches.

Concerns have been heightened by global developments in advanced AI models, which experts warn could be misused to exploit software vulnerabilities or enable large-scale financial fraud. The government has already begun assessing these risks through coordinated discussions involving financial and technology stakeholders.

Alongside AI-related risks, Sitharaman also highlighted the broader economic implications of geopolitical tensions in West Asia. She noted that disruptions in key energy routes, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, are pushing up crude oil prices and adding uncertainty to global markets.

These developments, she indicated, require close monitoring as they can impact inflation, financial stability, and overall economic growth. While India's banking system remains resilient, the combination of technological disruption and geopolitical volatility underscores the need for vigilance and preparedness.

Overall, the government's message is clear: Indian banks must move beyond reactive measures and build adaptive, intelligence-driven defence systems to stay ahead of evolving AI threats, while also remaining alert to global risks that could affect the financial sector.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru beat Gujarat Titans by 5 Wickets in the IPL 2026 clash at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on friday.

High stakes intensity powers record breaking hundred

Sanju Samson produced a match-winning century under intense pressure as CSK dominated MI in a high-stakes clash.

MUMBAI

Chennai Super Kings star Sanju Samson has credited the fierce "El Clasico" rivalry with Mumbai Indians for pushing him to achieve greatness. In a high-pressure clash at the Wankhede Stadium, the wicketkeeper-batter smashed a sensational, unbeaten 101 off just 54 balls. His career-defining performance powered Chennai to a massive 207/6, ultimately leading to a dominant 103-run victory over their arch-rivals.

Speaking after the match, Samson revealed that the intense atmosphere and high expectations actually helped his game. He explained that he thrives on tough challenges and felt motivated by the historic significance of the fixture. "When I see the intensity building up, that is when my best comes out," Samson shared. His century was a masterclass in timing, featuring ten boundaries and six towering sixes.

The knock was particularly historic, as Samson became the first-ever Chennai player to score a hundred against Mumbai Indians.

He navigated a tricky pitch where the ball was swinging early on, showing immense maturity as wickets fell around him. A key moment came in the final over, where Samson had a tactical chat with teammate Akeal Hosein to ensure he faced every delivery.

By scoring 16 runs in that final over, he secured his second century of the 2026 season. While personal milestones are special, Samson emphasized that team success remains his priority. He praised his younger teammates for their small but vital contributions, noting that this victory provides perfect momentum for the matches ahead.

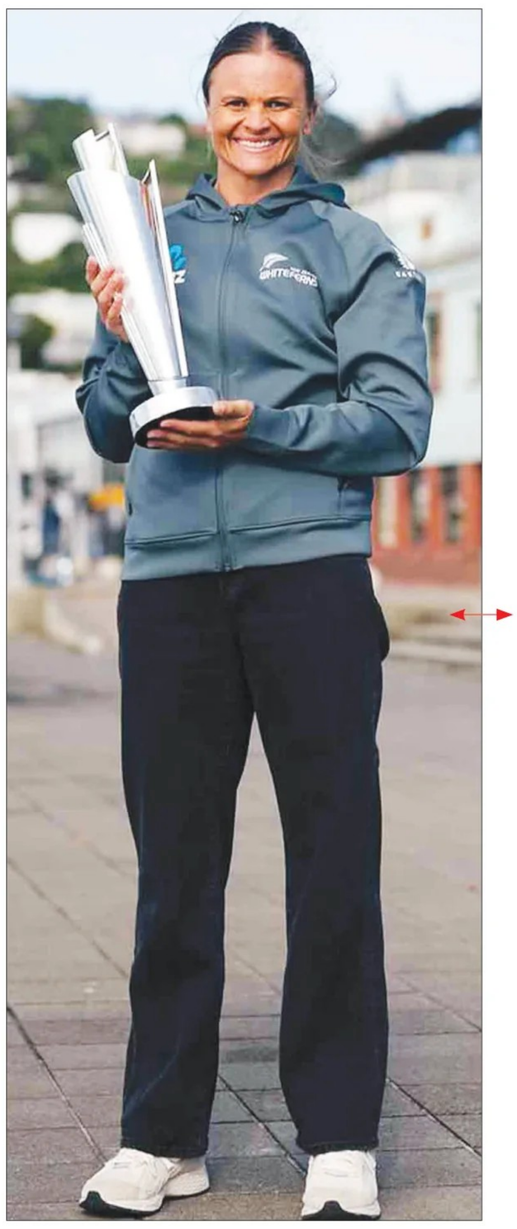
SACHIN TENDULKAR celebrates fifty three years of greatness

NEW DELHI

Celebrating fifty-three years, the "God of Cricket" Sachin Tendulkar remains the gold standard of sporting excellence, boasting unmatched records and an eternal legacy for global fans.

The "God of Cricket" has reached another milestone. India's legendary batsman, Sachin Tendulkar, celebrated his 53rd birthday recently, sparking a wave of nostalgia across the sporting world. Known as the Master Blaster, Tendulkar's career remains the gold standard for excellence, defined by records that many believe will never be broken.

Over a staggering 24 year career, Tendulkar transformed from a teenage prodigy into a global icon. He stands alone as the most prolific run maker in history, accumulating an incredible 34,357 international runs. His resilience is perhaps best shown by his 200 Test appearances, the most by any player, where he amassed 15,921 runs and 51 centuries. Whether in white or red-ball cricket, his technical perfection and hunger for runs were simply unmatched. In the One Day International format, Tendulkar was equally dominant. He holds the record for the most runs and centuries in a single calendar year, a feat achieved in 1998. Remarkably, he was the first to reach 18,000 ODI runs and holds the world record for the most fours, hitting the boundary over 4,000 times across all formats. Beyond the massive numbers, including 76 Player of the Match awards, Tendulkar's legacy is built on the joy he brought to millions.



Cricket legend Suzie Bates announces final farewell

NEW ZEALAND

The world of cricket is preparing to say goodbye to a true icon. New Zealand's legendary all-rounder, Suzie Bates, has officially announced her plan to retire from international sports. Her incredible journey will conclude following the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup held in England this June.

Bates has been a cornerstone of the White Ferns for two decades. Since her debut against India in 2006, she has represented her country 362 times. Known for her powerful batting and handy bowling, she retires as New Zealand's highest run-scorer of all time.

With 14 centuries and 145 wickets across all formats, her resume ranks among the greatest in the history of the game. Reflecting on her career, Bates shared that she feels immense pride in wearing the silver fern. She noted how quickly twenty years passed and thanked her teammates for the joy they shared. While she has achieved individual greatness, including being named ICC Player of the Year multiple times, her focus remains on the team.

Her final "mission" is to help New Zealand defend their title and win back-to-back trophies in the United Kingdom. Bates led the team as captain for seven years and played a vital role in their historic 2024 World Cup victory.

As she prepares for her last dance in Group B against rivals like England and the West Indies, fans everywhere are celebrating a pioneer who changed women's cricket forever. She leaves a legacy of purpose, excellence, and pure sporting joy.

New volleyball league to support local athletes

NEW DELHI

A groundbreaking new sports initiative is set to transform the lives of athletes in the national capital.

The Delhi Pro Volleyball League (DPVL), announced earlier this year, aims to provide players with more than just a place to play, it focuses on financial stability and long term professional recognition.

This "player first" movement wants to ensure that talent is rewarded with a sustainable career path rather than just personal passion.

Founded by former national players Neeti Rawat and Jasoda Gulliya, the DPVL is India's first women led professional volleyball league. The duo combines athletic experience with expertise in media and finance to create a solid foundation for the sport.

Rawat, a sports broadcasting expert, aims to boost the league's visibility, while Gulliya focuses on building a business model that offers players real economic security.

The league is scheduled to debut later in 2026, following the conclusion of the IPL cricket season.

It will feature six franchise teams, including names like the Purani Dilli Panthers and New Delhi Titans. Matches are expected to take place at iconic venues such as the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

With the official backing of the Delhi Volleyball Association, the DPVL intends to build a complete ecosystem.

Prachi Gaikwad shoots India to global top

NEW DELHI

India has reclaimed its position at the summit of the medal tally at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Cairo, thanks to a stunning golden performance by Prachi Gaikwad. Competing in the junior women's 50m rifle 3 positions event, Gaikwad showed incredible nerves of steel to edge out her competition in a nail biting final. Her victory marks India's second gold of the prestigious tournament.

The final was a dramatic seesaw battle. Gaikwad started slowly, sitting in fifth place after the kneeling round, but surged into contention during the prone stage. In the final standing position, she briefly lost her lead to neutral athlete Darya Chuprys. However, with the pressure at its peak, the Indian shooter fired a series of near perfect shots to win by a tiny margin of 0.2 points.

Rajat Chauhan honored for historic archery success

JAIPUR

India's star archer Rajat Chauhan has been awarded the prestigious DGP Commendation Disc for his exceptional contributions to sports.

The honor was presented by Rajasthan's Director General of Police, Rajeev Kumar Sharma, in recognition of Chauhan's consistent success at both national and international levels. Chauhan, who serves as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in the Rajasthan Police, has become one of the force's most decorated athletes.

Chauhan expressed deep gratitude upon receiving the award, stating that he is immensely happy to be honored by his own department. He vowed to continue bringing glory to the Rajasthan Police and the nation through his performances. His career is filled with milestones, including winning multiple gold medals at the 2022 World Cup and the 2023 World Police Games. Most recently, he secured a gold and two bronze medals at the 2026 Asia Archery Cup.

Beyond his current achievements, Chauhan is looking toward a long held dream. For years, he has envisioned competing on the world's biggest stage.

Bangladesh pulls star bowlers from Pakistan league

BANGLADESH

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has taken a firm stand to protect its players ahead of a major series. The board officially withdrew the permission for star pacer Mustafizur Rahman to play in the Pakistan Super League (PSL). This decision comes after medical experts advised the left arm bowler to undergo immediate scans and rehabilitation for an injury following the recent series against New Zealand.

Mustafizur is not the only player being held back. Rising fast bowler Nahid Rana, who was recently named "Player of the Series" against New Zealand, will also miss the PSL. The board decided to keep Rana at home to ensure he is physically ready for the critical two match Test series against Pakistan starting May 8. By keeping these key bowlers in Bangladesh, the BCB hopes to manage their workload and prevent further injuries.

The news follows Bangladesh's successful 2-1 victory over New Zealand in the One Day International series. With several veteran bowlers now resting or recovering, the national team has introduced several fresh faces for the upcoming T20 matches against New Zealand. Newcomers like Abdul Gaffar Saqlain and Ripon Mondal have been called up to fill the void left by the senior stars.

By prioritizing national duty over international leagues, the BCB is signaling how much they value the upcoming Pakistan Tests.

Fans are disappointed to miss the stars in the PSL, but the board insists that player health must come first to ensure success on the world stage.

Indian brothers win three historic pickleball golds

MUMBAI

Indian siblings Arjun and Aditya Singh have made history by clinching three gold medals at the US Open Pickleball Championship in Naples, Florida. The duo's stellar performance has firmly placed India on the global map for this rapidly growing sport. Competing against the world's best, the brothers proved their mettle by toppling top seeds and favorites in multiple high stakes categories. Aditya and Arjun secured their first gold together in the Under 18 Boys' Doubles. They followed this triumph with a second gold in the Men's Doubles 5.0 category, showcasing incredible chemistry on the court. Arjun Singh then added a third gold to the national tally by winning the Men's Singles 5.0 event. In total, the Indian contingent finished the prestigious tournament with eight medals, including four golds, two silvers, and two bronzes.

Speaking after their victory, the brothers were quick to credit their success to the Maharashtra Pickleball Association (MPA) and the Indian Pickleball Association. Aditya Singh highlighted the crucial role of Rahool Kanal, noting that his unwavering support provided them with the elite training and resources necessary to compete at such a high level. "This win belongs to everyone who believed in us," he added.

The newly crowned champions are not resting on their laurels. They are now preparing to return home for the Maharashtra Open 2026. With the momentum from their historic US Open run, the Singh brothers hope to inspire a new generation of Indian athletes to pick up a paddle and chase global glory.

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